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Palestinian Affairs

U.S. State Department Contacts Reportedly To Continue

TA1705150593 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 May 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] London, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and PLO coordinator at the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that the Palestinian delegation will continue its contacts with the U.S. State Department in a bid to modify the U.S. proposals presented to it. He described those proposals as "having been written in Israeli language."

In a statement to QUDS PRESS after returning from Washington at the conclusion of the ninth round of talks, Dr. Sha'th said: The U.S. move to surmount the Palestinian-Israeli differences was late and biased. He added that it will be possible to reach a joint agreement on principles during the upcoming round "if the U.S. adheres to the terms of reference on which the talks were based."

On the priorities of action in the coming stage, Dr. Sha'th said that the PLO's and the Palestinian negotiating delegation's efforts will focus on ending the siege imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and repatriating the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur. Dr. Sha'th pointed out that these matters covered 70 percent of the Washington negotiations while the autonomy talks covered only 30 percent.

Regarding the request of some delegation members on holding a meeting attended by all factions, including the opposition, "in order to rectify the negotiating track," Dr. Sha'th said: The Central Council has to meet to assess the negotiating process and the talks. All forces, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad are called upon to participate in the Palestinian decisionmaking. They will have to bear responsibility for any delay in their participation.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that "the Palestinian leadership was in constant contact, whether by telephone or visits, with the Hamas and Islamic Jihad deportee activists." He pointed out that "the Marj al-Zuhur strugglers were always on the minds of the negotiating delegation, who will not rest until it sees them honorably repatriated to their homes."

'Arafat: Peace Talks, Intifadah Complementary

LD1705222693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] The brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that the battles of the Palestinian delegation at the Middle East peace talks and the intifadah are continuing, that they complement each other, and that they constituted a sharp turning point in the onward march of the Palestinian people, revolution, and jihad.

In a telephone statement today to the headquarters of Palestinian women in Bethlehem, where the Union of Palestinian Authors and Journalists celebrated the repatriation of Palestinian deportees, brother President Abu-'Ammar reiterated that the only delegation which negotiated and fought, making use of the blessed intifadah and the valiant resistance [incomplete sentence as heard]. He considered negotiating and fighting to be the Palestinian resistants' assets and the Palestinian negotiators' strength. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the outcome of the ninth round of the negotiations, the brother president said: Your struggling delegation, who are in the fiercest political and diplomatic arena, confronted the enemy and those who exerted pressure. He frankly said: No, we will not sign or approve this document [as heard]. He said this not on his own behalf but on your behalf, you sons and people of Palestine. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on 'Escalation' in Israeli Stance

LD1705214693 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 May 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian negotiating team in Washington, with unidentified correspondent, place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Ashrawi] In fact, one cannot say that the round ended in failure or that it achieved no tangible progress. To our mind, a verdict on success or failure does not stem from a separate round but from a continuous and accumulative assessment of the process as a whole. This round's objective was to test intentions, commitment and the process at large. Such a test has in fact led to a preliminary deduction: There was an escalation [tas'id] in the Israeli stance which led the others to toughen their stances as well. That made it difficult to reach any common ground. The intention was essentially to achieve a common declaration of intentions. The Israeli document contained an escalation by comparison with previous stances. The Palestinian stance was committed to the bases and legitimacy of the peace process and its objectives and came within the framework laid down for the process, on the basis of the transfer of power and the emergence of an interim autonomous government.

There was no complete plan for the transfer of power; only a preliminary proposal for a common declaration of intentions. The main points of contention which remain are the following: the issue of land, geographical [land] ownership, dealing with land as a complete and indivisible unit, the non-exclusion from discussion of Jerusalem and the settlements, the issue of legislation, the powers of the elected interim autonomous government, issues of security and ways of defining it, and other matters where it was apparent that the gap was too wide to bridge. The U.S. document came not to serve as a common declaration of intentions but to describe progress as a joint

communique. We have already said that what was required was not a joint communique but a document defining the outlines of the next phase and the principles upon which the peace process would be constructed.

[Correspondent] How does the Palestinian side perceive the outlines of the next phase?

['Ashrawi] We perceive it in the form of a complete power- transfer in such a way that the civilian administration is dissolved, the military administration is withdrawn, land is dealt with as a complete and indivisible unit which includes Jerusalem, settlements are considered as having no legitimacy whatsoever and, during the transitional period, are dealt with as military or security regions to be dismantled in the final solution. We are also of the view that the genuine legality and legitimacy of the phase in question has to be legislative within the elected Palestinian body, that is to say the interim autonomous government.

On the other hand, the Israeli side tries to entrench the exclusion of Jerusalem and its illegitimate annexation, to entrench or legitimize the settlements and to revoke many powers which have to be transferred from the military administration or the occupation to the Palestinian national authorities.

[Correspondent] How do you see the prospects of the peace talks in the light of your meetings with the [Palestinian] leadership in Tunisia, particularly since no date has been fixed for the next round yet?

['Ashrawi] In my opinion, this is a very delicate phase and assessment is still underway. We must not forestall events and results by saying that the outcome of the test was negative.

[Correspondent] The Arab parties will hold coordinative meetings....

['Ashrawi, interrrupting] That is correct. A coordination meeting at foreign minister level will be held in Amman in the next phase. Naturally, there will be continuous consultations between the various parties and the PLO leadership.

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Talks, U.S. Role

TA1705135893 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 17 May 93 p 16

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: Why did the ninth round of talks fail in achieving an agreement between the Palestinians and Israel?

A: This is an extension of the situation which has prevailed in the last eight rounds. The obstacle, the impasse of the negotiation process, is that of the Israeli refusal to comply with the terms of reference, Resolution 242. This is the same situation as before.

Q: There were promises that this round would be different than the previous rounds.

A: Indeed, there were many promises. They were saying that there is a package of concessions ready to be delivered by Israel, if we would go to the peace table. The Americans also promised a more active role in what they call "full partnership." But the result is the same, because Israel more or less maintained the same intransigent stand, and the Americans did not carry out their role as we expected—to press for respect of the terms of reference by the negotiating parties.

Q: Do you think the Palestinians were tricked when they were told that there were certain promises?

A: This is the result. This is obvious. We, in the delegation, were advising against going to the peace talks. However, our leadership chose otherwise—to go on the basis of the promises. And this is the result; I hope a lesson has been learned.

Q: What do you think the next step should be?

A: My feeling and position is that it is high time for the Palestinians—whatever their affiliation and whoever they belong to in terms of political organizations—to get together and decide collectively what should be done, whatever it is. The time is right for taking an all-Palestinian resolution to decide where we go from here, what course we should follow.

I, personally, am not ready to decide what the best course is to take. This is a matter which pertains to the future of the Palestinian people. I think the Palestinian factions, if they are sincere about the Palestinian future, should get together in spite of all the differences and all difficulties. They should be sincere and honest in working on a collective resolution: where, how, and what we should adopt.

Maybe they will decide to continue with the peace process, while at the same time to engage in other activities that would help the Palestinians. Maybe they will want to suspend participation in the peace process and adopt other measures which can be more effective. There is more than one option.

Q: But from your point of view, will the Palestinians participate in a 10th round of talks?

A: I don't think we can continue to participate in an open-ended peace process that has lost its integrity and credibility.

Q: But if the leadership asks you to go to the 10th round, would you accept?

A: This is a question which I was asked previously, and I said I would not go against my own convictions. When I said this, I was hoping that there would not be any contradictions between what the delegation sees as proper and what our colleagues see as proper.

Our experience was very frustrating. We advised our leadership not to go to the ninth round, and they decided against this. Certainly, this was a very frustrating experience.

What I want to say is that I hope that this has been a very important lesson. We should work in coordination, and I hope that there is not going to be any rift between our leadership and the negotiating team.

Q: What about the main obstacles which the Palestinian delegation faced in the ninth round of talks?

A: It is the same situation. The Israelis are refusing to acknowledge that they are an occupying power. So they are not ready to concede that the interim government should have jurisdiction over the territories, during the interim period. They are making all kinds of invalid arguments in respect to this.

Q: Some members of the Palestinian delegation said that the proposal from the Israelis showed some positive signs. Do you agree?

A: As long as they stand to claim territory, I don't care what they say about other things. They make a lot of noise, saying that "We are ready to transfer authority in the different fields in health, education and commerce." I don't minimize the importance of this, but I can't deal with this aside from the territorial issue.

Q: The Americans promised to play the role of full partner, and the Palestinians believed that this role would help them in the negotiations. Are you disappointed in the American role?

A: I didn't want to speculate about the Americans as full partners. I only wanted the Americans, in their role as sponsors, to pressure the negotiating partners into respecting the terms of reference. So far they have failed to do this.

Q: What about the American document which the Palestinians received at the beginning of the round?

A: It was not acceptable to us. In spite of that, we did not reject it categorically. We made our comments on it and gave it to the Americans. Apparently, they couldn't convince the Israelis about our point of view, and so this was dropped.

Delegate to Talks Questions Usefulness of Strikes

JN1705165393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1523 GMT 17 May 93

[Interview with Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, Palestinian delegate to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by reporter Sa'id Mu'addi, carried in the "With the Events" feature; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Samir 'Abdallah: You have stated that strikes have begun to overburden the residents and the economy of the territories as well. Given that this is a form of collective punishment, is there a need to reconsider the issue?

['Abdallah] Of course, right now, there is a new situation. One of the reasons for staging strikes in the past was to inflict losses on the Israeli economy. This is no longer the case. Right now, strikes have no practical effect on the Israeli economy in light of the recent siege of the territories. Of course, other reasons for staging strikes are no longer relevant. Strikes were called for and staged to show which party controls the streets of the territories. It has become perfectly clear that it was the national movement which managed to control the streets. Moreover, for a long time, the trade sector and businessmen have been acting according to the wishes of the national movement. Hence, there is no longer any competition as to which party controls the actions of the trade sector. This factor became a thing of the past a long time ago. Harm here is not only confined to economic aspects. Harm is also being inflicted on educational and service institutions as well. Additionally, there is moral damage caused by forcing people to stage strikes to support conflicting political views. Sometimes, people are forced to stage strikes to express opposition to the peace process. At other times, they are asked to stage strikes to express support for this process. This is an insult to people's free will. If there is a desire on the part of some factions and groups to use strikes as a tool of opposition, then they should allow the Palestinians to express their views freely. Palestinians should be given the freedom to decide on such issues of their own volition.

[Mu'addi] This raises the question of the differences which continue to manifest themselves among various factions. The population is finding itself between the hammer and the anvil.

['Abdallah] As a matter of course, differences do exist. There have always been dissenting views. This will remain the case. However, I believe that differences among political factions should not overburden laymen.

Party Leader Urges Different Approach to Peace Talks

JN1805112593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 May 93 p 21

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Bashir al-Barghuti, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party, has said that it is incorrect to say that the negotiations have reached an impasse. He believes, however, that it is the approach to the negotiations that has reached an impasse.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y on arrival in Amman from occupied Palestine, al-Barghuti said this is not a renunciation of the negotiating process. Indeed, he said, it means returning to the spirit of the terms of reference of the negotiations and the resolutions of

international legitimacy and adhering to the negotiations plan based on this compliance.

He said that the results of the ninth round were contrary to some people's expectations in terms of achieving tangible results that serve the Palestinian side. Although the ninth round did not fulfill any of these expectations, it further clarified the U.S. and Israeli stands. Perhaps, the most serious matter is that the U.S. side adopted the Israeli point of view on the draft declaration of principles, abandoning the main element contained in the approved terms of reference of negotiations that are based on the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, meaning the land-for-peace principle. Therefore, there should be an assessment of the situation in order to restore credibility to the terms of reference of the negotiating process, including all its elements, to emphasize the application of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to the interim and final stages and to the territorial jurisdiction over all Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem. There should also be emphasis on the need to incorporate elements from the final stage into the interim stage in order to secure continued development in the negotiating process to achieve a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from these territories and to guarantee the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights.

Hence, the issue does not lie in a quick reaction to the ninth round or rejection of the negotiating process. It lies in putting the negotiation process back on the right track that is in line with the text and spirit of the international legitimacy resolutions and land-for-peace principle.

The secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party affirmed that dialogue is always necessary and desired, especially in this case. He said: It is the responsibility of us all to provide a practical response regarding what should be done to secure our national rights and end the Israeli occupation. Undoubtedly, there are divergent viewpoints, which is perfectly legitimate, and it might not be possible to agree on what we want to achieve in the negotiations. However, if agreement is reached through dialogue on what should not be accepted, that is on drawing red lines, then it will be impermissible for any Palestinian side to cross these lines either practically or politically.

He said: In other words, if it is difficult to agree on what should be achieved, perhaps it would be easier to agree on what should not be accepted.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Barghuti added: Such a dialogue should be responsible and serious. It should be held on a small scale and attended by two representatives of each Palestinian side and a number of Palestinian figures that are historically related to the Palestinian issue. Also, this dialogue must be held before the PLO Central Council meets so that it will be easy for it to adopt positive resolutions and contribute to reinforcing national Palestinian unity.

'Urayqat on 'Economic Blockade,' Peace Talks

NC1805081093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 May 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo, in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Aswad] We begin this dialogue with the conditions in the Palestinian camps, villages, and cities and the Israeli escalation against Palestinian citizens. There is an economic blockade on the occupied territories and there are violations of human rights. How does this situation affect the Palestinian stance on participation in the talks?

['Urayqat] As we have repeatedly said, when we speak about the Palestinian man's human rights, which are being violated daily by the Israeli occupation, we speak about rights that should not be negotiated. Israel is supposed to be committed to the principles and norms of international law.

The occupied Palestinian territories are being converted into a large prison for 2 million people. Some 166,000 workers have lost their jobs. The closure means a division of the occupied Palestinian territories, which means the farmer cannot convey his goods to various markets in the occupied territories and a factory cannot market its products, because roadblocks prevent the goods from moving, for example, from Nabulus in the north to Hebron in the south and vice versa. This causes grave financial loss to our economy of around 4-5 million dollars a day.

We are living in difficult economic conditions, rather, in an economic catastrophe, because of circumstances. The continuation of the blockade is a severe blow to the Palestinian economy.

Other measures are effected on another level: A curfew is imposed on areas that can contain over half a million people, homes are stormed and rockets fired at them, there are random arrests, and the Israeli death squads kill young men in cold blood. All these affect the peace process and expose Israel's true intentions. What is needed is a favorable atmosphere and confidence for the peace process, not the destruction of confidence that the Israeli Government is carrying out.

[Al-Aswad] Much has been said about the ninth round of the talks and views and analyses on the outcome of this round on the Palestinian-Israeli track have varied. As deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, how do you assess that round? Let us not refer to results; that way we will not anticipate anything.

['Urayqat] First, we must say that intense negotiations were held through the U.S. sponsor before this round. These negotiations resulted in many Israeli commitments, which I can sum up: the return of a first group of the deportees

expelled between 1967 and 1987, the return of Marj al-Zuhur deportees or a speedy implementation of Resolution 799, a halt to demolishing 10,000 housing units, which Israel claims are unlicensed, a reunion of around 500 displaced families, and work toward decreasing and freezing taxes and creating investment opportunities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Only the first of these issues, pledges, and commitments that Israel promised the cosponsor, namely, the return of the first group of those deported between 1967 and 1987, was implemented. The other pledges were not implemented and this greatly affected the round. The deportees in Marj al-Zuhur formed one of the main issues on the agenda from the start of the negotiations. As you know, Israel decided to add another 25 names to the list of 101 deportees in its deal with the United States. That was a setback for the negotiations, because we were expecting the speedy implementation of Resolution 799 and the return of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

As I said, this affected the negotiations. The delegation had instructions from the PLO leadership and from President 'Arafat personally that we should work to reach an agreement on joint principles. We tried for two weeks to reach such an agreement. But the failure to fulfill the pledges and later the government crisis in Israel affected the negotiations. We noticed on the last day or the second week that the Israeli delegation produced a paper, in essence a reiteration of stances proposed by Israel in February 1992. It became evident that the Israeli Government crisis was having an effect and casting its dark shadow on the negotiations.

As to the substance of the talks, a very wide gap emerged on three main issues. There were what Israel called exemptions, that is, exempting Jerusalem, the settlements, and security from the negotiations. The Israeli delegation realized that no Palestinian or even Arab delegation could reach an agreement without Jerusalem being included in it. The same applies to the partitioning of land and the exemption of settlements and security.

Other issues were discussed intensively at the start of the round of talks. There was also the connection between the two phases, legislation, and transferring the authority and responsibility of the civilian administration, which will be dissolved after the handover to a Palestinian authority that will be elected freely and directly under international supervision. The issue of a single geographic entity was recognized.

At the end of this round, the U.S. side presented what it called an American paper.

[Al-Aswad] Surely the Palestinians did not accept this paper?

['Urayqat] No. Let us look at it from two angles. The first is that the substance of the paper was not compatible at all with the terms of reference; it certainly wasn't compatible with the Palestinian stance. We met U.S. officials one day before the round ended and presented around 51 amendments to the paper.

[Al-Aswad] What happened to these amendments?

['Urayqat] The U.S. Administration took them and will of course study them. The other angle is that we should be aware that the U.S. measure was a declaration of a new step, one that had not been taken in 18 months, namely the involvement of the U.S. sponsor in the negotiations. This means that if other rounds are held, the negotiations will not be limited to the Palestinians and Israelis; there will be a third party.

[Al-Aswad] Is this a positive result from your point of view?

['Urayqat] Since the start of negotiations, we have demanded that the sponsors, the United States and Russia, should participate actively and positively and in accordance with the peace process' terms of reference. If future rounds are held, we must study this development and how to deal with it.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Urayqat, thank you.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Assessment of 9th Round, Arab Coordination Urged

TA1705175893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Palestinian Assessment and Arab Coordination"]

[Text] Following the conclusion of the ninth round of talks, the various negotiating parties issued assessments and statements on the results of this round, the common feature of which was to consider the round's results less than what had been expected of it. Then, opinions differed between one analyst and another in this or that negotiating delegation about the degree of the round's shortcomings or failure.

On the Palestinian level, the negotiating delegation was able to conduct an objective and sincere assessment of the ninth round's outcome. The i's were dotted and the t's crossed whether regarding the Israeli working paper, which was far from the acceptable limit of Palestinian demands, or the U.S. bias toward Israel manifested in the U.S. document, which was almost identical to the Israeli working paper presented in the talks.

Certainly, all this justifies the suggestions made by many Palestinian forces and tendencies, including circles in the negotiating delegation, to conduct a systematic study and review of what transpired in the ninth round and the preceding events, as well as of the ensuing developments and the consequence of all this, on the situation in the occupied territories. This, in a bid to assess the real

situation in the talks and the extent of their progress—if there has been indeed progress—and to put everyone in the picture as much as possible in preparation for making the right decision about the upcoming round in particular, and the future of the peace process in general.

In view of the Palestinian position's link with those of the other Arab negotiating parties, there is an urgent need to resume coordinating activity among the Arab side's parties. This activity is not devoid of many positive aspects which contribute to consolidating the joint Arab stance and using the card of meetings among the Arab parties for the required solution to be comprehensive, just, and acceptable.

Hence, Palestinian assessment and coordination with the other Arab parties are essential before entering the upcoming round of peace talks—that is if the ninth round is not the last one.

U.S. Administration Urged To Save Peace Process

TA1705144493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 17 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Dashed Hopes"]

[Text] With the end of the ninth round of peace negotiations in Washington, D.C., it has become clear that the early hopes which certain parties held and expected to be realized during this round have all been dashed. Some may argue that it is enough that the parties sat down together; they count that as an achievement in itself. But if this is the case, then the peace process is in jeopardy, considering that 18 months have already elapsed since the Madrid conference without any tangible outcome.

The Palestinian delegation has asserted their people's willingness to bring about peace. In fact, the participation of the delegation in the ninth round was by itself proof that the Palestinian party is fully dedicated to the peace process.

The delegation participated this time despite the fact that the Israeli party did not abide by U.N. resolutions, especially Resolution 799, pertaining to the immediate return of the Palestinian expellees in southern Lebanon. Moreover, the delegation insisted on a show of respect for the Palestinians' human rights before the negotiations could be considered anything more than a waste of time.

Promises made by the American and Israeli sides to the Palestinians that things would be different this round, along with the insistent advice of the leaders of some Arab countries, are what made the Palestinian leadership decide to participate in this round despite the general mood in the occupied territories to the contrary. The promises made by those parties, however, bounced like a bad check.

No change was felt in the Israeli position at the negotiating table. Neither was there any change for the better in the occupied territories regarding Israeli army practices. In fact, Israeli infringements on the Palestinians' human rights witnessed new depths. The military siege imposed on the occupied territories, the closure of East Jerusalem to Palestinians without Jerusalem I.D. cards, and the restriction of movement have become even worse, with the military barriers at the entrances to Jerusalem taking on a permanent status. Needless to mention is the daily shooting and demolition of houses. In the end, this situation makes the picture very gloomy for the Palestinian people and pushes them to lose faith in any statements made by Israeli leaders regarding peace.

We believe it is high time that the co-sponsors take matters into their own hands and try to force Israel to take an approach to the negotiations that would facilitate peace. Israeli intransigence is as it has always been, and Israeli practices in the occupied territories are even worse than before.

We believe the U.S. administration should act swiftly, by taking a position biased only to international legitimacy and the realization of peace in the region. Full U.S. partnership in the peace process should be based on this fact for the sake of world peace and the future generations of this region. And past experience shows that when an American administration is willing, Israel cannot but say, "Amen."

PLO Urged To Draw Lessons From 9th Round's 'Failure'

TA1705193293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 May 93 pp 1, 15

[By Rashid Hilal and Sa'idah Muhammad]

[Excerpt] Ramallah—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has called on the PLO leadership and the forces that have taken part in the negotiations to draw the appropriate conclusions and lessons from the ninth round's failure. He also called for a comprehensive and technical assessment of all the previous negotiating rounds, saying there is now an urgent need to evaluate the results of this option and the direct repercussions on the Palestinian people and their national cause. In light of this assessment it will be possible to adopt a clear stance compatible with the Palestinian people's aspirations and goals.

Dr. Habash said that the preliminaries, motives, and factors that pressed for going to the ninth round indicated with utmost clarity the probable results of this round. [passage omitted]

On reports about the assurances and guarantees which Faysal al-Husayni carried away from his meetings with the U.S. Administration on the eve of the ninth round, George Habash said that undoubtedly they played a role in accelerating the decision to go to Washington. He added: While underscoring this point, we affirm that the decision by the Palestinian side to go to the ninth round stemmed basically from the position of the PLO leadership itself. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian official concluded his statement by referring to the pressure exerted by the United States, Europe, and Russia in addition to the Arab pressure, and said: The Arab parties saw in the Palestinian party a cover for themselves, just as the Palestinian party saw in those parties and their pressure a cover for itself.

Dr. Habash noted that going to the ninth round was the result of the interlocking of all the above factors. This, however, provided a special impetus to Palestinian self-confidence whereby the delegation insisted on the positions and terms that it had declared before the start of the ninth round.

Hawatimah Denies Saddam Encouraged Continued Peace Talks

JN1605104193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 May 93 p 14

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] Amman—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has denied that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn encouraged the Palestinians to continue the negotiations.

In a news conference held in Amman yesterday, Hawatimah asserted: During my visit to Iraq, President Saddam told me that he is against the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and that he advised all Palestinian leaders, including President 'Arafat, to withdraw from the negotiations. Hawatimah referred to the minutes of a meeting between a papal envoy and President Saddam, which were published in the Iraqi press, in which President Saddam says that he is against the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and that the Iraqis will not say otherwise while facing pressure, threats, and embargo.

The DFLP secretary general described as unfair the course of the Madrid and Washington negotiations. He urged a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue to realize a new unity under fresh bases of negotiations—bases which should be in line with the decisions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the resolutions of international legitimacy. Hawatimah stressed the need for the Palestinian people to attain a just and comprehensive peace and not an unstable peace. He added: We insist on holding a referendum for our Palestinian people under international supervision and on referring to the PNC decisions, which were not honored, in order to deter those who breached these decisions, so all sides will resort to the Palestinian national program, which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, Hawatimah said: If the PLO leadership decides to participate in the next round of peace talks, we will continue our struggle. He added: We are one of the main forces of the intifadah within the framework of national unity. In the diaspora, we are one of the main Palestinian forces engaged in demonstrations, strikes, and political and armed action. Through the intifadah, we introduced the Palestine question into every house in the world and carried it to Washington once again. Hawatimah continued: We will not leave the PLO; it is our umbrella, and also the umbrella of the entire Palestinian people according to its program. The PLO is not a feudal estate for a certain faction. We will not leave the PLO and present it on a tray to this or that faction, he added. [passage omitted]

Embassy Denies Palestinians in Jordan for Police Training

JN1705072993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 May 93 p 25

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—The media spokesman for the Palestinian Embassy in Amman has denied Israeli press reports published yesterday on sending a group of Palestinians to Jordan to receive training in preparation for forming a proposed Arab police force in the Palestinian territories.

The source told AL-DUSTUR that nothing like this has taken place since the peace process has not so far achieved anything.

Egypt

Musa Rules Out Mediation on Sudan, Stresses 'Goodwill'

NC1705151193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today said relations between Egypt and Sudan need no mediation, arbitration, or meetings in any third country's capital, neutral or not. He added that communication between the two countries, if needed, can and should take place directly. It is goodwill that matters most, Musa stated.

Sudan's al-Bashir Invited to OAU Summit in Cairo

NC1805091393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 May 93 p 1

[Text] Egypt has invited 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Council in Sudan, to attend the meetings of the African summit, which will be held in Cairo in June, because Sudan is an OAU member.

A responsible source has stated that an invitation has also been sent to the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] because it is also an OAU member.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives To Discuss Talks

NC1805054693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2148 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 may (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas "Abu-Mazin" arrived in Cairo from Tunis tonight on a visit of several days. He will meet Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials to discuss the results of the ninth round of peace negotiations, which ended in Washington last Thursday. Abu-Mazin's visit is part of the ongoing coordination and consultation between Egypt and the Palestinian leadership with the aim of boosting the prospects for Middle East peace.

Israel's Weizman's Phone Call to Mubarak Noted

NC1705103693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this morning from Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, director of the Presidential Press Office, said the two leaders discussed the latest developments in the regional peace process.

Weizman played a central role in the Egyptian-Israeli peace process. He also is one of the major supporters of a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

UK's Hogg Arrives, Comments on Bosnian Situation

NC1805070393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Cairo early this morning on an official three-day visit to Egypt, during which he will meet senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials and chair the meeting of British ambassadors in the Middle East, which is due to be held in Cairo.

In an arrival statement, he said the aim of his visit is to exchange views and hold discussions with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials on Egypt's foreign policy and Egyptian-British relations. He said he will also chair the British ambassadors' meeting and discuss issues concerning the Middle East and the peace process.

He said that holding the British ambassadors' conference in Cairo confirms Egypt's importance to Britain and the Middle East. He spoke about aspects of cooperation between Egypt and Britain and said President Mubarak's recent visit to Britain provided the opportunity to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Commenting on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hogg noted that the issue was important, vital to the Islamic world as an international affair. He said weapons cannot be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina without an international resolution and explained that the first result of lifting the arms embargo would be death and killing, because the Serbs would strike new targets in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Hogg was received by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak and the British ambassador in Cairo.

IMF Official Arrives, To Meet Prime Minister

NC1805065593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0604 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—IMF Executive Director Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan arrived in Cairo this morning on a 10-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, Dr. Sha'lan will meet Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development and environmental affairs; and Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for cabinet affairs. [passage omitted]

Cuban Economic Cooperation Official Visits

Meets With Economy Minister

NC1505194493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1913 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa today received

Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation in Cuba, who is currently visiting Cairo at the head of a delegation comprising a number of economic officials. During the meeting, which was attended by the Cuban ambassador to Egypt, the two officials discussed ways to promote economic cooperation and trade and prospects for signing a bilateral trade agreement to boost the volume of trade.

Confers With Musa, Comments

NC1705130593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received Ernesto Melendez, Cuba's minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. Afterward, the Cuban official said he and Musa discussed economic, financial, and cultural relations. Melendez said the two countries have expressed a common political desire for cooperation.

The Cuban official said his visit aims to revive the commercial agreement signed by the two countries and to strengthen the private sector's role in this respect. He described his talks with Egyptian officials as positive.

Melendez arrived in Cairo on 9 May and met several Egyptian officials, including the ministers of agriculture, economy, and international cooperation. He is due to leave Cairo later today.

Delivers Castro Message to Mubarak

NC1705191393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Ernesto Melendez, Cuba's minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. They discussed ways of strengthening economic and trade relations between Egypt and Cuba.

Melendez said he handed Musa a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro for President Husni Mubarak dealing with the desire to develop bilateral relations in all fields.

At a news conference held this afternoon, Melendez expressed optimism over the future of economic relations between Egypt and Cuba. He indicated that during his current visit to Cairo he discussed ways of strengthening these relations.

Melendez said there are opportunities for Egyptian businessmen to establish joint projects in Cuba where laws permit foreign capital to participate in certain projects. There are joint companies with Spain, Italy, France, and Latin American countries.

Mubarak Warns of Funds Channeled to Fundamentalists

NC1705161593 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 17 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will bar fund-raising by private groups which could channel the money to fundamentalists, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said in remarks published Monday.

He told reporters who accompanied him on a Gulf tour that Saudi Arabia and the UAE had made all fund-raising subject to prior government approval in a bid to determine where the money was going.

Mubarak ended his tour Sunday of the six Gulf Arab monarchies during which he discussed Iran's alleged threats against the region and bilateral relations.

He urged officials there not to ignore the financing of private organizations by Muslim fundamentalists in the Gulf or Egypt.

During his tour, Mubarak accused Iran of wanting to dominate the Gulf and of financing Muslim radicals bent on setting up a strict Islamic state in Egypt.

The Egyptian press has for several days been reporting on Saudi businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin, who is thought to be one of the main financiers of the "Arab Afghan" war veterans, the Arab volunteers who fought alongside the Afghan mujahidin before the fall of the communist regime in Kabul in 1989.

Egyptian officials said Bin-Ladin had recently organized and financed the transfer of Arab Afghans from Pakistan to Sudan after Islamabad decided to expel them.

Sudan and Pakistan have denied the report.

The pro-government daily AL-AHRAM said Saudi officials have officially requested the arrest of Bin-Ladin who is currently in Khartoum.

AL-AHRAM Praises Antiterror Agreement With Gulf

NC1805060493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 18 May 93

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Text] AL-AHRAM's editorial deals with the outcome of President Mubarak's tour of the Gulf countries. It says the tour's most important result is the agreement reached to block the channels used by terrorist groups to obtain funds from nongovernmental Gulf parties. The agreement was a successful measure, reached through full understanding and direct coordination with the highest Gulf authorities, which are necessarily interested in stemming the wave of terrorism and preventing it from spreading in the region.

AL-AHRAM says the move was made upon reliable information, afforded credibility by Egypt's conveying it to these countries. This confirms that Egypt does not work in a vacuum or base its demands on mere rumor.

Shukri Reelected Labor Party Leader Unopposed

NC1405191293 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 May 93 p 1

[Excerpts] The opening session of the Labor Party's sixth general congress was held at the Riparian Transport Center at 1030 on 6 May. [passage omitted] Over 1,500 Labor Party members from the various governorates attended the meeting.

Labor Party Secretary 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat declared there were no nominations for the post of party leader except Engineer Ibrahim Shukri. Congress members duly reelected Shukri unopposed, amid shouts and applause.

All the Egyptian parties and political forces, except the National Democratic Party, sent representatives to the meeting, which was also attended by representatives from some Arab states. The Muslim Brotherhood sent a delegation including (general guide deputies) Mustafa Mashhur and Ahmad al-Malat and Official Spokesman counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi. 'Ali-al-Din Salih, legitimate leader of the Misr al-Fatah Party, and Mahmud al-Maliji, secretary general of the Misr al-Fatah Party, also attended. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, sent a letter to Shukri expressing his appreciation of the Labor Party's vanguard role in supporting Arab and Islamic causes. 'Arafat affirmed his confidence that the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's struggle will always be the subject of the Labor Party's attention and activity.

Addresses Labor Party Congress

NC1405191593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 May 93 p 4

[Speech by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri at the opening of the Labor Party's Sixth General Congress at the Riparian Transport Center in Cairo on 6 May]

[Excerpts] Brothers and sons, members of the Labor Party's Sixth General Congress: God blesses this meeting of ours. In all our actions we seek his support. Our nation also looks at what is taking place in this hall, realizing that its future is linked with this congress' success in achieving cohesion among our ranks so that we may carry on the struggle for the sake of God. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sons, since our last congress, Egypt and the Arab and Islamic regions have witnessed grave incidents. It was natural for the Labor Party to be at the center of these events, honestly defending this nation's existence and interests:

—Inside Egypt, secular campaigns casting doubt on Islam as a solution to our problems have intensified so much that in the official media, Islam has become synonymous with ignorance and backwardness. Decadence and licentiousness have spread and values and ethics have been neglected. Our party and newspaper have firmly stood against this decadence and have proved that the values of religion and faith are the prelude to any reform.

—Unemployment and poverty have increased, affecting large sections of our people and reaching an intolerable level, about which one cannot remain silent. Corruption and overindulgence have increased. The symbols of this overindulgence are the al-Shabah [ghost—local name given to a Mercedes] and their like, which provoke people everywhere and cost billions of pounds of the nation's money.

All this has happened in the name of economic reform. Our party has confronted the lies, saying this is economic sabotage and corruption.

Scandals and hustles have increased, leading to economic recession, which has halted productive development. Our party has stood up to fight these economic policies, saying priority must be given to agriculture and industry, not to tourism, despite its importance.

More importantly, our party has revealed that these destructive economic policies do not only represent the government's failure, but basically represent the instructions of the international organizations and all the foreign powers to which God almighty's statement "if something good befalls you, it grieves them" [Koranic verse] applies. It was necessary for someone to confront these major powers and courageously defend Egypt's future. It was natural for the Labor Party to adopt such a position against the instructions of the IMF and the World Bank and against the major powers supporting these two bodies.

Brothers and sons, events in Egypt are directly linked with the U.S.-Israeli policy aimed at tightening their control of the Arab-Islamic region and its resources. Within this framework, the imperialist coalition against Iraq was formed.

Our party exposed this alliance and its intentions from the first day. We said the "liberation of Kuwait" was only an excuse for the U.S. and Zionist expansionist and domineering intentions. Consequently, we demanded that the Egyptian Army should not be involved in a war led by the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

The nation's enemies are continuing their onslaught to subdue all the forces that reject humiliation and subjugation. Within this framework, they are continuing their blockade of Iraq and Libya. Within this framework, they are poised to strike at Iran and Sudan. Within this framework, they are striking at all aspects of Islamic awakening and all Islamic political movements in the

name of fighting terrorism. This, despite most of these movements calling for peaceful reform and avoiding violence. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sons, since our fifth congress, our party has been fighting on all fronts, spreading enlightenment and organizing its ranks. It has won the masses' confidence and support. This has resulted in an increase in the number of party members and more party discipline. As much as our struggle has won our nation's appreciation, it has won the anger of all those who are afraid of our determination and oppose our objectives. Their intrigues have led them to fabricate a meeting, which was attended by individuals who were not directly or indirectly linked with the Labor Party. They alleged that this was the Labor Party congress. They intended to use this false meeting as a means to stop the activity of our party and newspaper.

Everybody knows that this false meeting of the authorities' agents was held at the behest of the National Democratic Party and the Interior Ministry. There is no need to elaborate, because you know all about the issue. I say now—at our sixth congress—I say, brothers and sons, our sixth congress represents the peak of our reply to the enemies' plots.

[passage omitted] Brothers and sons, if government officials say they respect the law, their behavior indicates the opposite. I declare with the loudest voice so that the nation will hear and history will record it; the government has resorted to every trick to prevent your congress from convening. It has ordered all the owners of halls not to give us their premises for our congress.

But we have met the challenge. We are meeting despite their plots and despite the small size of this place. We are raising our voice and reaffirming the legitimacy of our party and leadership. Let the conspirators know that we will not succumb or surrender. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sons, recently, our party stressed that our region faces strong pressure unseen elsewhere. Suffice it to say, two fraternal countries, Iraq and Libya, are facing an unjust blockade bordering on aggression. Two other countries, Sudan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, are facing threats of war and blockade. These criminal measures aim to subjugate the peoples of these countries, undermine their sovereignty, and enable the Zionists to impose their control. Egypt is also being affected by these measures to make it retreat and capitulate further.

The plan for subjugation and humiliation also includes U.S. support for Israeli arrogance in the ongoing negotiations. The Zionists have rejected the principle of withdrawal, especially from Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories in Gaza and the West Bank. At the same time, they seek to subjugate the Arab economy to the Zionist, under the name the Middle East Market. This market aims to erase our Arab and Islamic character. Its declared philosophy is cooperation between the ruling Arab regimes and the Jews in the war against the Muslims and the Islamic awakening.

What is happening goes beyond imagination. It complements the corruption and economic robbery in Egypt and the dangerous program of selling public sector companies to foreigners at cheap prices. The poor are being made to bear the burden of the economic crisis. They are suffering from high prices and unemployment. Freedoms are being suppressed and human rights are being trampled. The democratic march has been halted. There are no free elections and the state of emergency remains in force. [passage omitted]

The national forces must work to lift the siege on Iraq and Libya. They must also work to stop the shedding of Muslim and Arab blood at the hands of Muslims. I mean the national forces should stand against the involvement of our people and Army in any attack on Sudan and Iran. [passage omitted]

I call upon the national forces in Egypt and other countries to agree on a quick program to rescue our country, which is on the brink of conflagration. In the name of the Labor Party, I call for the formation of a national democratic front. [passage omitted] I urge the honest elements in the National Democratic Party to help us in our efforts. If they cannot join this front, at least they should support it and not be hostile to it. [passage omitted]

We are a legitimate party that works within the framework of the law. We believe in gradual reform and in elections. Accordingly, we oppose and reject armed violence. We are prepared to cooperate with anyone who, like us, wants to contain violence. But a condition of cooperation is that it should be linked with any kind of reform, especially political reform. [passage omitted]

Those who dislike the Islamic nation and the Labor Party once said that the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood had become one organization. Now they are saying the opposite. They are saying that sharp differences have broken out between us and the Muslim Brotherhood and that ties between the two have been severed. I take this opportunity to explain our ideological and political ideas. I say our enemies have lied twice. They lied the first time because the Labor Party was and will remain an independent organization separate from the Muslim Brotherhood. Agreement between us and the Muslim Brotherhood on several points does not preclude disagreement between us on ideological and political issues justifying our remaining two organizations competing for the general welfare. The second lie speaks about sharp differences, which I can affirm are groundless. Differences between us and the Muslim Brotherhood in the past did not prevent us from establishing the Islamic Alliance. And they do not prevent us today; the serious challenges facing the Islamic and democratic movements require unity of rank more than ever. [passage omitted]

Libya

Foreign Secretary Interviewed on Lockerbie

NC1805100093 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 6 May 93 p 13

[Interview with 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, by Thurayya 'Asi "on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers conference in Karachi"; date not given—all ellipses as published]

[Text] ['Asi] What has become of the efforts to resolve Libya's crisis with the West?

[Al-Muntasir] I believe we have implemented all the provisions of UN Resolution 731. The only thing we differ upon is the venue of the trial. As you know, we have offered that the trial take place in any neutral state that they choose. By neutral, we mean any state which is not a party to the issue. In other words, any state except Britain, France, and the United States. We even accept states which are allies of the United States. However, despite all this, the Americans still reject this, attributing their attitude to self-pride. They ask why we will not accept U.S. or Anglo-Saxon courts.

However, we cannot hand them [the two suspects] over on psychological, logical, and judicial grounds. Consequently, we have secured a resolution from the people's congresses allowing us to hand them over to a fair, just, and neutral court.

As for the other conditions, such as those on terrorism and armament, there is no problem at all. Even when they speak about nuclear weapons, we see this as a joke, especially when they speak about Libya's possession of nuclear weapons. Neither Libya's material and manpower nor its technological progress allows us to build nuclear weapons. All these accusations are groundless.

The recent resolution extends the embargo until 15 August. Through the Security Council, we will strive to reach a solution that will at least be not harmful to us, that perhaps will be accepted by the United States, and that will not harm anyone—a solution that will satisfy all parties.

['Asi] Some blame Libya, saying that it has been soft and that its desire to a find a settlement satisfactory to all parties has prompted the opposing side to be intransigent and to insist on its well-known stand. There is a clear point, namely that there is no law allowing the extradition of defendants to foreign parties. This infringes on sovereignty. However, Libya's agreement to bargain on this subject has pushed the other side to harden its stand. What do you say about this?

[Al-Muntasir] No, it all boils down to the fact that Libya's stand stems from its desire to contribute to a solution to the problem. Libya has made no concessions. We are confident that we are the victims. However, the world has become a jungle that only understands faits accomplis. Therefore, we are striving to find a solution that will reveal the truth. I am sure that their evidence is flimsy. It is not enough that these Libyan people worked for some time in Malta so that they would be participants in the operation. There is no material evidence. You know that the evidence at the beginning pointed in other directions and not at Libya. Therefore, our concessions—if we want to consider them concessions—are only for the sake of revealing the truth and not because we are afraid of the United States. If we wanted to make concessions, we would have turned over the defendants from the beginning.

['Asi] Some say the reason they are not handed over to U.S. or British courts is that investigations will reveal the involvement of other people who hold high and official posts.

[Al-Muntasir] Well, what prevents another court from revealing this? For example, if the trial is held in Germany, what will prevent it from revealing the facts? It is self-evident that if the investigations discover other elements are involved, the court will summon these elements.

['Asi] What is the justification for Libya making all these concessions? There are requests which Libya has met, including giving information about the Irish Republican Army [IRA].

[Al-Muntasir] We have answered questions unrelated to the incident. These answers deal with the IRA and our relationship with the Palestinian organizations because there is no longer any justification for the continuation of this relationship. The Palestinian organizations do not have a presence in Libya but they still retain their offices.

['Asi] But relations with the Palestinians were confined to a PLO office only.

[Al-Muntasir] No. The main Palestinian factions, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also have offices.

['Asi] What about Ahmad Jibril [leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command]?

[Al-Muntasir] The Front's office is there, but he personally is not. "He has never been in Libya." [quotation marks as published]

['Asi] But it is said that his office in Tripoli is closed.

[Al-Muntasir] Maybe such a decision was made under certain circumstances or for other reasons. The only thing we did was to give them information about the IRA—information they already knew; it was not new. We severed our relations with the IRA long before the Lockerbie crisis. At the beginning, we supported the IRA on the basis that it was a political movement seeking liberation from Britain. But when it became clear that the organization's practices harmed ordinary citizens,

we stopped our assistance to it. This is known by the British; they know that we have broken off our relations with the IRA since 1988. They wanted information about the period before 1988, and we gave them what we had. Anyway, our information is limited. What information would an organization like the IRA give, no matter what the relationship? I do not imagine that an organization with such precision and secrecy would give the Libyans full and detailed information.

['Asi] The British said the information was not enough.

[Al-Muntasir] We gave them what we had. They believe that since we dealt with the IRA in the past, then we must have known all the names. I cannot understand this "naive" British thinking. Suppose you were to deal with an Irish man, would he give you his real name? I do not believe so. Those involved in secret political activity do not give their real names.

['Asi] But for you to establish contacts and provide support, there must be confidence.

[Al-Muntasir] Yes. But there are always noms de guerre. This is how I envision things. Maybe I am wrong, but all the information we have is not new to the British. I believe that this is what angered them; they said the information is not new and already known to them.

['Asi] What other demands is Libya still required to meet, apart from providing information about the IRA?

[Al-Muntasir] First, the handing over of the two people. Second, allowing the French judge to complete his investigations. Several meetings between the French and Libyan investigating judges were held, but the French judge has not finished his work yet. He was scheduled to visit Libya. But he came aboard a heavily-armed warship. Naturally, it is not acceptable that he arrive in the way that 16th century diplomacy was conducted. He is welcome to visit any time, but in a civilized manner. We said this to the French Embassy in Tripoli and to the French Government. We do not object to him visiting at any time to complete his investigation.

About the other points in Resolution 731, we have no problem. These points include condemnation and renunciation of terrorism. All world countries must renounce terrorism or else be accused of practicing it. Another point is the weapons of mass destruction. I believe the accusation that Libya possesses these weapons is ridiculous and deserves no reply. Nevertheless, we signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty before the incident; namely, since we began work on the very small training center for the production of isotopes for use in agriculture and medicine. The center was built by the Russians; they, therefore, now know all its secrets and details.

We do not produce chemical weapons. We told them to come and join us in al-Rabitah, which they say is a factory for producing chemical weapons. It should be noted, moreover, that in the past, the ban was on the use of chemical weapons, not on their production. We did not sign the treaty banning chemical weapons, but we are ready to sign it. There is an Arab League decision not to sign the treaty before Israel signs it. Regrettably, despite the unanimous Arab decision, most of the Arab countries did sign the treaty. Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco signed in Paris, and the others signed in New York. Only Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Sudan did not sign.

['Asi] It was said that Libya was enthusiastic to sign the treaty.

[Al-Muntasir] Honestly, yes. Before the Arab decision was made, we wanted to sign so as to deprive the Americans of any excuses. But following the Arab decision, we will not sign before the remaining Arab countries do. Specifically, we will not sign if Syria and Egypt do not.

['Asi] How do you assess the prospects of solving this crisis (Libya's crisis with the West) in the absence of a united Arab front and the lack of Arab enthusiasm for the Libyan cause?

[Al-Muntasir] In my opinion, the solution must come via the United Nations. The current U.S. Administration must be convinced that it is in no one's interest to keep the situation as it is—not in Libya's interest, not in theirs. The accusations no longer have any basis. If they were still being leveled, matters would be different. I mean those accusations that used to claim that Libya backs attempts to overthrow governments. All these accusations are unfounded. The only unresolved problem is the trial of these two people. We accept that they be tried in a manner that will bring out the truth—that is, if the United States actually seeks to learn the truth. Any fair investigation and trial will demonstrate the truth. Perhaps the Security Council will intervene and make a decision acceptable to the United States.

The United States is currently the loser in its dealings with Libya because it needs Libya economically. The annual volume of business that U.S. firms do with Libya is $4 or $5 billion, including trade and the oil sector. It is not an insignificant sum. The United States has lost this and its European allies have taken the business.

['Asi] There have been reports about a new proposal to settle the crisis that involves handing over the suspects to a neutral country which will then hand them over to a U.S. or British court.

[Al-Muntasir] If we had wanted to hand them over to the United States or Britain, we would not have held fast all the past year and suffered these measures.

['Asi] You have been trying by way of making other concessions....

[Al-Muntasir, interrupting] No, this has been our position since the start. Believe me we made it clear in our first letter to the UN secretary general because they (the accusations) are unfounded—at least now. Perhaps in the past. [as published] Assuming we want to hand them over, why not do it directly instead of through a neutral

country? In this case, we would have done better to hand them over to the secretary general from the start so that he could hand them over in turn to anyone he wanted.

In our opinion, a realistic approach is direct intervention by the Security Council because it has often announced: "O Libya, implement the U.S. and British demands." Our current proposal for a solution is for the Security Council to supervise an international investigation. It can name a certain country in which to administer a joint international court in which U.S., British, Libyan, and other judges can participate. There are precedents for this. Judging by the subsequent investigation and if clear, unambiguous evidence comes to light, the charge will stick to those two people and they can then be tried in any country. Another solution is for the International Court of Justice [ICJ] to examine the case and make its decision concerning their trial. However, the ICJ takes a long time and the United States does not accept this. Perhaps they are afraid that we will not abide by the ICJ ruling. We will abide by the ruling. We propose that the two suspects be transferred to a neutral country where they will remain until the ICJ decides their case. We will accept any ICJ ruling, even if it says that the suspects must be put on trial in the United States or Britain. However, if the ICJ decides they must stand trial in Libya, they must accept this.

['Asi] Who will convince the opposing side of this settlement or convince the Security Council to undertake this task? Libya has always been counting on Egyptian efforts. However, it has been reiterated that these Egyptian endeavors were confronted by an intransigent U.S. attitude during President Mubarak's recent visit to Washington.

[Al-Muntasir] In fact, we are counting on the Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab League seven-member committee, and the rationality of the Americans, who say the United States is a country of institutions and hence its stands are the same, whether during the Bush or Clinton administrations. However, our hope lies in Carter [as published], who respects the law and views the matter with logic. Clinton inherited the crisis from his predecessor. Therefore, in view of this outlook, and especially because the matter is being handled by the Security Council, they might accept such a settlement. Through the Security Council, I believe, there is a possibility of reaching a solution satisfactory to the United States and us.

We support and insist on a trial. At least, we will get rid of this problem.

['Asi] What is your evaluation of the activity of the seven- member committee which, according to available information, is based on the outcome of the Egyptian efforts?

[Al-Muntasir] There is seriousness in the activity of the seven-member committee. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, as a representative of the committee, has contacted the Security Council and the UN secretary general. Our hope is that through 'Abd-al- Majid's intervention, the Security Council will solve the issue. In fact, we can see a beginning of a solution and not the final solution. I believe this will become clear next week, when they will answer him.

['Asi] How do you evaluate the Arab states' stands on the crisis?

[Al-Muntasir] By God, morally, they are good.

['Asi] At variant degrees? How can they be good when you closed your land borders for three days to protest the stands of the neighboring Arab countries?

[Al-Muntasir] No, we closed our borders for three days after the death of the Libyan justice minister for organizational and security reasons. However, we are not satisfied with the Arab airlines' boycott of us. In practice, the air embargo against us primarily comes from the Arab countries because most of our air routes are with Arab countries. The Arab states are unable to stand up and say no to the United States. This is a fact. The Arab and Islamic states, even those hostile to the United States, such as Sudan, do not violate the embargo, although there are land borders between Libya and Sudan. Syrian planes must fly over Egyptian and Greek air space. Syria's stand from the beginning was positive.

However, we understand their position. They are afraid of U.S. tyranny and so that they will not be also included in the embargo. Jordan is suffering because of its stand on the embargo against Iraq. Ships sailing to Jordan are being searched. Consequently, we know they are unable [to violate the embargo].

['Asi] Can we deduce from this that there is a Libyan understanding of the Arab states' stands?

[Al-Muntasir] The issue is not one of understanding. We are not in a position to antagonize all parties. As for the ordinary Libyan citizen, he does not understand this. He suffers from frustration. There is negligence even of the most basic things, such as pilgrimage.

['Asi] However, you have adopted a stand in this respect, which has caused a media embarrassment for the Saudis. You have turned the qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn while praying] to Jerusalem and decided to send pilgrims to Jerusalem.

[Al-Muntasir] This is newspapers' talk. Pilgrimage is pilgrimage.

['Asi] Israel has said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi sent it an unofficial message through mediators asking for permission for Libyans to perform the pilgrimage in Jerusalem. Israel added that it agreed to give that permission? [question mark as published]

Here al-Muntasir expressed his astonishment that this is said to have happened. He asked if the message was oral

or written, and when I told him that it was oral, he said: [preceding paragraph is AL-DIYAR report on part of the interview]

[Al-Muntasir] I do not think so. What gets one thinking is the fact that we are deprived of going to Mecca. Who has the right to deprive us of pilgrimage to Mecca?

['Asi] Has anyone deprived you of going to Mecca?

[Al-Muntasir] Why do not they allow our planes to land in Saudi Arabia?

['Asi] At first, they should allow these planes to leave Libyan airspace. Is this not so?

[Al-Muntasir] Let them do that.

['Asi] By the way, will the Israelis allow your planes to land there?

[Al-Muntasir] Israel has nothing to do with this.

['Asi] But you have changed the destination of pilgrimage from Mecca to Jerusalem. You said that the Israelis will not approve your request, but they did.

[Al-Muntasir] I do not recall that we made such a request. In any case, the pilgrimage is not to Jerusalem.

['Asi] But you said that Jerusalem is one of the two qiblahs....

[Al-Muntasir] Let me ask you this: If we are prevented from pilgrimage, what shall we do?

['Asi] Do not go on pilgrimage.

[Al-Muntasir] But this is a religious duty.

['Asi] "Those who can afford the journey." [part of Koranic verse]

[Al-Muntasir] The reference here is to the person's financial and health status. The restriction, in our case, is being imposed from abroad.

['Asi] During the Prophet's life and in the early times of Islam there were no passenger planes around.

[Al-Muntasir] You want us to go to Mecca on foot or on a camel's back? Are we supposed to go on pilgrimage on foot and on camel's back? Say this and let us go back....

['Asi] You have met Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal. Have you discussed this topic?

[Al-Muntasir] I always meet him. He is my friend. I know him since we were oil ministers. The Saudis believe that they cannot violate the UN Security Council resolution. What we attempted here [in Karachi] was persuade the Islamic Conference Organization to seek an understanding with the Security Council in this regard. There is a resolution [not further specified] allowing this to happen for humanistic reasons. In our view, the need to perform a religious rite is a humanistic matter. Therefore, let them allow Saudi and Libyan planes to transport Libyan pilgrims. There is still a chance for that to happen. We will know whether this will happen or not in the coming few days. The pilgrimage season is going to start shortly.

['Asi] Let us go back to the Libyan crisis with the West. Among the demands made on Libya was that it should support the peace process—which began at the same time as the Lockerbie crisis—and take a moderate position on the Arab-Israeli issue. What do you say about that?

[Al-Muntasir] To my knowledge, no one has made such a request.

['Asi] How, then, do you explain the flexibility in the Libyan position on the peace process and the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Al-Muntasir] The way we, the Libyans, see it is that we have enough to worry about right now. Therefore, we left the responsibility of the Arab-Israeli conflict to the Arab countries directly involved as well as the Palestinians. In any case, we cannot object to the Palestinian people's wishes. If the Palestinian people want a certain solution, we cannot object. We may have a different position, but we cannot object. In any case, we believe that this solution will not materialize. We believe that the other side does not want a solution.

['Asi] This means your position is similar to that of any other observer....

[Al-Muntasir] You cannot say this because this issue concerns us more than others. We are not as distant from it as the Russians, Japanese, or others. We consider it our problem. Still we will accept what the Palestinian people accept.

['Asi] This kind of talk is new to the Jamahiriyah. Previously Libya was interested—we can say it had a conviction—in intervening to uphold and back popular liberation movements.

[Al-Muntasir] This is why I said that what satisfies the Palestinian people will satisfy us.

['Asi] Nevertheless, Libya used to have a certain stand on inter-Palestinian differences. For example it would support the opposition against 'Arafat.

[Al-Muntasir] What concerns us is the Palestinian people's attitude.

['Asi] It is difficult for you to learn the Palestinian people's real stance because you cannot hold a referendum for them. The known stances are those of the PLO and the opposition factions who object to the PLO's policy and the peaceful solution. Where does Libya stand on this?

[Al-Muntasir] Why are we asked to adopt a position? What effect can our position have? Will we attend [the

negotiations] or not? We are not asked to attend. What we say is that we will not accept any solution that does not satisfy the Palestinian people. How to assess the Palestinian people's stance is something we are leaving to circumstance because the Palestinian people will impose their wishes on the organizations. At any rate, we do not need to adopt a stance because, judging by the current atmosphere, no solution is forthcoming. We know the outcome in advance. Furthermore, we have enough problems and do not want to interfere in other people's problems.

['Asi] Can one say that Libya, following the recent crisis, has reached the conclusion that it should concern itself with its own affairs and not intervene in others' affairs ~~and~~ that it has abandoned "the dreams of unity"?

[Al-Muntasir] Absolutely not. This is what the others want. The remarks I have just made concern what is happening now but this does not mean that Libya has abandoned revolutionary principles, particularly Arab unity. It is still one of our priorities. No, abandoning them is out of the question. If we wanted to abandon them, we would have closed our borders right from the beginning of the crisis.

['Asi] The loss would have been yours.

[Al-Muntasir] No. Why? The sea is wide open. At least we could have made the borders official. As you know, the borders on the Libyan side do not have even a single policeman. We could have built a gate and stationed police at the border, at least to control who comes in and who goes out. At any rate I assure you that we will not abandon revolutionary goals, particularly Arab unity. Never. This is what the West wants. Indeed our crisis heightens our determination to seek Arab unity. Had there been Arab unity, none of this would have happened.

['Asi] Exactly, what will prove to the West that you will abide by your declarations?

[Al-Muntasir] This is the problem. We write. They do not believe us. We say come and sit with us to discuss the matter. They refuse. This is indeed a predicament. I believe part of the problem is that they do not believe that we will abide by what we declare.

['Asi] How can they trust you while you still advocate revolutionary principles, particularly Arab unity?

[Al-Muntasir] Do they oppose unity? Why? It might prove useful. If we are rebellious, they can domesticate us [yudajjinunana] within such a group, when it becomes one single country. At any rate, regardless of circumstances, I state that we cannot become parochial and we will not abandon our dreams of unity.

Joint Committee Meeting With Sudan Opens

EA1705134593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Sidra, Libya [no date, as received] (SUNA)—The second session of the Sudanese-Libyan high ministerial committee to follow up the integration opened here Sunday [16 May]. Deputy chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Maj-Gen Zubayr Muhammad Salih, addressed the opening session affirming that the Arab unity would remain the aspired goal till the Arab nation restores [its] glory and its pioneer role among the nations. He said the declaration of the Sudanese-Libyan integration statement came in conformity with the deep-rooted basis of the bilateral relations and as a step towards the comprehensive Arab unity.

The RCC deputy chairman denounced the unjust constraints against Libya, saying that the U.N Resolution No 748 was a conspiracy to annihilate the unionist and liberation stances of Libyan Jamahiriyah as the resolution was not based on any legitimacy or law. The so-called new world order is based on an entirely unilateral hegemony and on depriving the countries and people of their sovereignty, freedom and noble living, he said.

The session was also addressed by secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, affirming that the decision of the siege on Libya came as a result of the Libyan revolutionary and national stances. He called for the necessity of enhancing implementation of integration programmes and creating the atmosphere for the unity to confront the enemies.

Meanwhile, the subcommittees emanating from the high ministerial committee opened sessions Sunday where they discussed the scheduled works and programmes submitted to them by the General Secretariat Planning Department. The issue of establishing the Arab authority for integration projects and investment programmes was also discussed during [the] session.

On the other hand, Maj-Gen Salih, who arrived here Saturday [15 May], met with the Libyan leader, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Sunday.

Minutes Signed

LD1705214493 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpt] The minutes of the meeting of the second session of the ministerial body of integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan were signed this evening. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee [for Libya] and for the Sudanese Arab side by brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and deputy prime minister in brotherly Sudan. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Nonaligned News Agencies Hold 17th Meeting in Manama

IRNA Chief Addresses Meeting

LD1505175693 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Al-Manamah, May 15, IRNA—The 17th meeting of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP) opened here today with a speech by General Manager of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Fereydun Vardinejad.

Vardinejad who is the current chairman of the NANAP said: "What is currently posing an actual threat to the peace and security of the human community is not the breakout of a limited or all-out nuclear clash, but the widening gap between the world's poor and the rich. The poor who rightly attribute all their past, present and future difficulties to the direct results of the colonial and neo-colonial policies of members of the rich-camp."

He said the past rivalries between the dominant world powers to expand their areas of influence through naked military means have changed into an intensive and sophisticated race to penetrate and occupy the minds and socio-cultural patterns of people of the under-developed countries.

De-colonization of information, said the IRNA chief, is "an essential initiative" to counter colonialism through different means and forms.

Vardinejad outlined NANAP's activities since its foundation and said it had helped strengthened national news agencies on NAM [Non-Aligned Movement] states, offered professional and technical training to staff of member agencies, made efforts to design and put into force an integrated communications network, and have close cooperation with international and specialized organizations such as the U.N. and the UNESCO in order to avail their advanced facilities.

He said that inspired by the mandate given to the chairman by the 6th General Conference to explore the possibilities of initiating a professional link between NANAP and the national news agencies of the newly independent states in Asia, a series of contacts and face-to-face negotiations have been underway since mid-1992 with the news agencies of the Republics of Azerbaijan, Nakhichevan, Armenia, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

The aim, he specified, was to pave the way for establishing a reliable framework for professional cooperation between the NANAP and the Central Asian states through IRNA.

According to Vardinejad IRNA has plans to organize two separate training courses for men and women journalists of the less-developed member agencies, within the framework of the Tehran plan of action.

NANAP launched its professional activities in 1975 initially by making use of the limited facilities provided by the 12 founding agencies and was widely received by the Non-Aligned Movement members to the effect that its membership increased to 100 countries.

The Islamic Republic News Agency was selected chairman of the conference for a 4-year term during the sixth NANAP session held in Tehran last year.

Iranian Minister Urges Cooperation

LD1705141893 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Manama, May 17, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Larijani on Monday called on the non-aligned news agencies to step up their efforts to devise a system for communications and exchange of news among developing countries.

In a message to the ongoing meeting of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP) here, Larijani called for cooperation among non-aligned news agencies in order to decolonize information and ensure the free flow of news among non-aligned states and the world.

"Establishing and strengthening the free flow of information among developing countries of the south will help decrease their dependence on the Western mass media and promote understanding and solidarity among those nations," the message said.

It said the big powers of the world by taking advantage of their technological and material power have tried to create a flow of information that benefits their own ends. Consolidating the non- aligned news agencies can be an effective means for confronting this design, added Larijani's message.

The 17th meeting of the NANAP's coordinating commitee presided over by managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Fereydun Vardinejad started on Saturday.

During the three-day gathering, many of IRNA's proposals to attain NANAP's goals won the approval of participating countries and passed in the session.

Kuwait

Information Minister on GCC Cooperation, Iraqi Opposition

LD1705190793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1521 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 17 May (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah today reaffirmed that Kuwait is not living in political isolation, but that Iraq is the one which is living in such isolation especially after having being deserted by the regimes that supported it in the past. In a lecture at the Faculty of Commerce of Kuwait University, he said that Kuwait's

foreign policy is based on nonalignment and is tied by the charters of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the Arab League, and the United Nations. Shaykh Sa'ud added that before the treacherous Iraqi invasion Kuwait's policy was balanced and it pursued the principle of the middle-line between the two superpowers then—the United States and the Soviet Union. He said that following the collapse of the latter and the fact that the former became alone the leader of the world, the small state of Kuwait had inevitably to search for security guarantees from the allied and friendly states. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that there is no positive evidence indicating that there are Iraqi democratic leaderships capable of inheriting the regime now ruling in Baghdad. He said that the Iraqi opposition has thus far failed to convince, and the states of the region do not have confidence in it because of the contradictory statements it makes regarding recognition of the demarcation of borders between Iraq and Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'ud called on the GCC member-states to establish greater cooperation, to abandon marginal differences, and to strive to establish a common security in the Gulf region. He called on the Kuwaiti National Assembly to rectify some of the problems in the country especially those relating to issues of nationality and those people who are without nationality.

Qatar

Amir Confers With British Energy Official

JN1505112093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Doha, 15 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, received in Doha today Tim Eggar, British minister of state in the Department of Trade and Industry, who is visiting Qatar to attend a seminar on oil, gas, and petrochemicals.

Talks dealt with the topics and working papers submitted to this seminar, which is organized by the Qatari state enterprise for oil and the British council for energy industries. Talks also dealt with ways to enhance and expand joint cooperation in various fields, particularly oil, gas, and related industries.

Ministers Arrive for Meeting on Damascus Declaration

JN1805065893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Doha, 17 May (WAKH)—Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Yusri 'Ali Mustafa and Syrian Finance Minister Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini arrived in Doha this evening to attend the first meeting of the finance and economy ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory states due to convene tomorrow, Tuesday.

Qatari Finance, Economy, and Trade Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani welcomed the Egyptian and Syrian ministers on their arrival at Doha International Airport.

Saudi Arabia

'Anxiety' Felt Over Failure of 9th Round of Talks

LD1705193593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the council of ministers' session which was held this afternoon of Monday 26 Dhi al Qi'dah 1413 AH, [17 May 1993]. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud pointed out in his statement that after reviewing the results of three weeks of Middle East peace talks that failed to reach agreement on principles of self-rule for Palestinians and even failed to secure agreement on a new date for the forthcoming round of talks, the council expressed its anxiety over the fact that no tangible results were reached. The council called on all parties concerned in these talks to overcome everything that can obstruct the achievement of the aims for which these talks started. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not spare any effort in cooperation and support to reach the legitimate rights to which the brother Palestinians aspire.

His excellency the acting information minister said: The council discussed the ordeals of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and particularly the actions carried out by the Serbs and the Croats for dividing Bosnia at the expense of Muslims there. The custodian of the two holy mosques stressed that the Kingdom, which is following with great anxiety the deteriorating situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, will God willing continue its efforts and work with the international community, which is looking with justice and fairness into measures liable to stop the Serbian aggressors and put an end to the horrible crimes until God grants triumph to Muslims. [passage omitted]

Minister Reiterates Opposition to EC Carbon Tax

PM1405130193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 93 p 13

['Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi report: "Sa'ud al-Faysal Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Brussels' Insistence on 'Carbon Tax' Contravenes Gulf-European Cooperation Agreement"]

[Excerpts] Brussels—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal gave an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday in Brussels at the end of the proceedings of the fourth ministerial session of the joint Gulf-European Cooperation Council. He stressed that the carbon tax was the main pivot of the Gulf-European ministerial talks, as the joint ministerial

council discussed the carbon tax at length. And it was agreed in the end that "we should not just register the positions—we say what we want and the Europeans say what they want—but should refer the question to the joint energy committee to discuss in detail the available information and arrive at joint conclusions and then brief the ministerial council on them."

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Gulf side firmly believes that imposing tax on energy will not at all contribute to solving environmental problems. He said: "Imposing an additional tax on energy will not resolve environmental issues or solve the problem of carbon dioxide emission. This is in the knowledge that oil is subjected to more tax than any other substance in current international trade exchanges." [passage omitted]

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed that the EC has no right to take unilateral measures that affect the interests of a party linked with the agreement. And that either party must confer with the other before that and not harm its interests.

He said that "the two contracting parties must respect the stipulations of the agreement in their trade dealings and in the process of laying the foundations for trade cooperation between the two regions. From this angle, the negotiations to be conducted in the joint energy committee are meant not just to exchange information, but also to stress that any measures to be taken by either party concerning an issue that affects the other party's interests will be taken into consideration and that the alternatives will be looked for at the time." [passage omitted]

Government Said To Request Arrest of Usamah Bin-Ladin

NC1705184693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 May 93 p 1

[Text] AL-AHRAM has learned that Saudi Arabia has requested the arrest of Usamah Bin-Ladin, a Saudi national suspected of financing the training of terrorist groups and their travel between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sudan. Security reports indicate that Bin-Ladin is currently in Khartoum.

Spokesman of New Human Rights Group Said Arrested

JN1705171793 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 17, INA—The Saudi authorities have arrested spokesman of the newly formed Committee for the Defence of Rights Under the Shari'ah, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper said today.

The spokesman, Muhammad al-Mas'ari is a university teacher. The committee was set up by his father last week with a declared aim of improving the system of justice and upholding human rights.

Saudi officials have reacted angrily to the suggestion that the human rights situation in the country was in need of independent monitoring. They claimed that Saudi Arabia had a higher respect for human rights than any other country. This is not a view shared by Arab and Western groups who have documented numerous cases of torture and other violations involving political prisoners over recent years.

The arrest shows that the Saudi authorities have made up their minds as to how they intend to respond to the formation this month of human rights organization known as the Commitee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights.

The authorities, therefore seem to be saying that dissent and talk about the need for elections will not be tolerated.

Azzam Sultan of the London-based human rights group Liberty says that the Saudi authorities have now decided to supress any talk of change because such talk would threaten them first.

The committee presents a very diverse set of opinions in Saudi Arabia. This is due to the fact that any sensible person would welcome a move towards the establishment of an organization specialised in the protection of rights, Mr Sultan added.

Asked whether there was a sense in the country that there would inevitable be a democratic change eventually, Mr. Sultan said there are many people who believe in the need for that change.

He went on to say that only recently there has been a delegation from al-Qasim area with complaints against the regime, but they found the doors were closed and the interior minister himself told them 'your reqeust is rejected, rejected, rejected'.

If these people are not finding any doors open, so that do you think will happen next, Mr. Sultan wondered.

Demonstrations Reported; 'Hundreds' Arrested

JN1705172993 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 17, INA—Demonstrations have been staged in various parts of Saudia in support of the Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah. It was announced by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari chairman of the defence committee in a telephone call with the French News Agency today.

Al-Mas'ari has disclosed the Saudi authorities arresting of hundreds of the committee supporters in all Saudi cities, and that was also confirmed by a statement of the Arab Organization for Human Rights issued in Cairo yesterday in which he affirmed the arrest of more than 400 persons from elements of the committee by those authorities.

He expected that the ruling authorities would embark on the arrest of other hundreds in the coming days.

It is to be recalled that Saudi authorities replied violently and announced a ban on the said committee's activitiy and prevented its founders from exercising their work and followed that by arresting Muhammed al-Mas'ari, the committee's spokesman and son of the committee chairman.

University Offices 'Stormed' by Police

NC1705204793 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 17 (AFP)—An Islamic human rights movement said Monday that two employees of King Sa'ud University in Riyadh, where a founder of a Saudi human rights group taught, had been arrested amid a wave of detentions.

Citing a source close to Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah, it said Saudi security forces on Monday "stormed the offices of the physics department at King Sa'ud University," where Professor Muhammad al-Mas'ari who served as the committee's spokesman had worked until his arrest on Saturday.

The department's secretary and a technician "were arrested and taken to an unknown destination," the source told the London-based Liberty group, adding that security forces also "collected all the documents, books and correspondence belonging to the department."

The group's leader 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, father of the arrested professor who was contacted from Riyadh by telephone, told AFP he knew nothing of the incident.

"I'm not yet aware of that but everything is possible since authorities have arrested hundreds of people in recent days in different regions of the kingdom," he said.

Creation of the committee was announced on May 7 by Liberty, an independent organization specializing in the defense and promotion of human rights and reform in Muslim countries.

Some 400 committee supporters have been rounded up after more than 10,000 people across Saudi Arabia signed a petition of support for the newly-formed group, according to the Cairo-based Arab Organization of Human Rights.

Riyadh has denied it was detaining any political prisoners and the country's religious leadership has argued that Saudi Arabia was already regulated by shari'ah, or Islamic law.

The committee's creation has angered the Saudi royal family and last week triggered condemnation from the highest religious authorities.

The government Thursday stripped the seven founding committee members of their jobs. Four university professors and a civil servant were sacked while two lawyers were barred from practising.

Mas'ari said 30 of the university's faculty members had met with the governor of Riyadh, Prince Salman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz to urge the release of his detained son.

"Salman told the protesting professors that storming al-Mas'ari's residence and arresting him was a legitimate action that is not going to be reversed," the committee statement said.

"He further warned that those who do what al-Mas'ari did will be dealt the same penalty," it added.

Liberty said the prince, in a heated discussion with the delegation of university professors, admitted that al-Mas'ari's telephone had been tapped and that authorities had recorded his conversations with international human rights organizations and media. [sentence as received]

It said the prince told the delegation that what Muhammad al- Mas'ari was telling those groups "did not please the authorities."

The committee has said its objectives were to fight against "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners.

United Arab Emirates

Minister of Petroleum Confers With British Energy Official

JN1605184293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 May (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin Yusuf, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of petroleum and mineral resources today conferred with Tim Eggar, British minister of state in the Department of Trade and Industry who is currently visiting the UAE.

Discussions dealt with the current situation in the energy markets, their future prospects in the short and long terms, and the impact of [words indistinct] on oil and energy markets. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Gunmen Open Fire in Courtroom, Kill 5

NC1705140193 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, May 17 (AFP)—Gunmen burst into a Yemeni court and opened fire on defendants in a criminal case, killing five people and wounding two others, police said Monday.

Four defendants and a prison guard died instantly and three were wounded. One of the wounded died in hospital after Sunday's violence in the southern town of Tawahi.

The gunmen were arrested, police added, without identifying them.

British MP's Continue Visit, Meet With Leaders

MP's Said To Criticize Blockade

JN1605150393 Baghdad INA in English 1338 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Two labour deputies from the British House of Commons, currently visiting Iraq said that Britain gained big profits from its involvement in the military aggression against Iraq.

In an interview to AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad, they confirmed that these profits were at the expense of the Iraqi people.

The two deputies George Galloway and Tam Dalyell were unanimous that the blockade was designed to starve the Iraqi people. This matter entirely contradicts the international law and the U.N. Charter as well principles of the World Declaration of the Human Rights, because the children and the elderly are themselves paying this behaviour.

They further said that the economic sanctions had also negatively affected a number of British companies, referring that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had paid tremendous funds to these companies to compensate their losses.

Mr. George Galloway said we should admit that former command of the British Labour Party backed that government in the military intervention against Iraq, stressing that half members, specially those at the House of Commons are strongly opposing the decision of the involvement in the aggression.

He called upon the new command of the Labour Party to redress the previous positions towards Iraq and to listen to viewpoints of figures, who visited the region and Iraq.

The British deputy said that the anti-Iraq aggression is still continued, but in another form, namely, the economic war.

He stressed that the motives of the escalation of the crisis in the Gulf region against Iraq were personal stands of the former U.S. Government.

He said that we had opposed this policy since the beginning and also opposed any military intervention in the Gulf region, calling upon the U.S. new administration to open new page with Iraq and direct dialogue with the Iraqi government to resolve all existing differences between the two states, voicing opposition against any American military presence in the Gulf area.

For his part, Mr. Dalyell said that the goal of the visit is to get acquainted with the situation inside Iraq and collect information on effects of the continued blockade, for explaining them before the British House of Commons.

Parliamentarians Meet With 'Aziz

JN1605204793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today received Tam Dalyell and George Galloway, members of the British House of Commons, and Riyad al-Tahir of the British Friends Without Frontiers organization.

The deputy prime minister outlined the nature of the malicious aggression against Iraq and the painful consequences of the iniquitous embargo, particularly for children, women, the elderly, and the sick.

The British parliamentarians stressed the need to lift the embargo, stressing that they plan to educate the British public about conditions in Iraq.

Conditions for Jailed Britons To Improve

NC1705181593 Paris AFP in English 1738 GMT 17 May 93

[Report by Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Baghdad, May 17 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities have promised to improve prison conditions for two Britons held for illegal entry into the country, a British opposition member of parliament told AFP on Monday.

"They were asking for a move from one cell they were sharing with ten other people, not very large, and we talked to the prison authorities and they agreed to (move them) to another two-man cell together," said George Galloway. "We are very grateful."

Galloway and Tam Dalyell of Britain's Labour Party met Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz here Sunday in a bid to secure the release of the Britons jailed last year for "illegal entry" into Iraq.

Michael Wainwright, 42, and Paul Ride, 33, were sentenced respectively to 10 and seven years in prison.

"We nonetheless pressed the Iraqis unconditionally to bring forward the release of these men," Galloway said.

He said it would be a humanitarian gesture that would be well received by British public opinion if the men were released. He said the two men had expressed the view that the British government was not doing enough to secure their freedom.

"They were as depressed as anyone held in a foreign prison," the MP [member of parliament] said. "Mr. Ride is angry that the British government is not trying hard enough."

The opposition MPs will discuss with British Prime Minister John Major "ways by which Britain could try harder to achieve the release of these two men," Galloway said.

On Sunday, Tariq 'Aziz briefed them on the Gulf War and the "terrible repercussions" on the Iraqi people of the U.N. trade embargo, state-run television said.

It quoted the two MPs as calling for a lifting of the embargo in force since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

"We raised various issues that are of interest to our side, and this includes of course the role of our country in the aggression, in the economic blockade and also the presence of two of our nationals here in prison."

Asked whether 'Aziz had suggested how Ride and Wainwright could be released, Galloway said the Iraqi deputy premier pointed to the fact the entire Iraqi population was currently held prisoner given the international sanctions.

'Aziz also indirectly pointed to the larger picture of British-Iraqi ties, including some 500 million pounds (750 million dollars) of Iraqi assets frozen by London.

The MPs delivered oral and written messages to their imprisoned compatriots from loved ones back home during a 90-minute meeting, Galloway said.

MP Cited on Conditions in South

JN1805103893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Bahdad, 18 May (INA)—Tam Dalyell, British House of Commons and opposition Labor Party member, has refuted the false Western allegations and media lies about living conditions in southern Iraq.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Dalyell said that the calm and stability which he recently witnessed in southern Iraq expose the false Western allegations and media lies which deceive the general public. He added that he will convey a true picture about the realities that he saw, and will clearly inform the British public about them.

Dalyell voiced his admiration for the ongoing construction on all levels in Iraq. He said that during his visit to Baghdad he did not see any war effects, which astonished him and drew his admiration for the Iraqi cadres' high technical abilities, particularly in the field of telecommunication achievements, which were carried out with great precision.

Dalyell explained that he, along with 37 other British parliamentarians, had opposed the aggression on Iraq and their country's participation in it since the very beginning. He asserted that what he has seen in Baghdad and al-Basrah hospitals has made him more determined to demand lifting the embargo as soon as possible.

He urged the Clinton administration to pay attention to its domestic problems and its own economic situation rather than intefering in others' affairs and creating problems for them. He also urged the U.S. Government to show interest in the reports submitted to the United Nations by the Harvard group regarding the conditions which the Iraqis are suffering as a result of the aggression and continued economic embargo.

Foreign Minister Meets Parliamentarians

JN1805105393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf last night received Tam Dalyell and George Galloway, British House of Commons members, and Riyad al-Tahir, member of the British Friends Without Frontiers organization.

The minister reviewed the negative effects of the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq and the need to end it after it has lost its justifications. He also explained all the Iraqi measures to honor the commitments stipulated in Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991.

The British parliamentarians highly appreciated the reconstruction campaign and the Iraqi people's true rallying around President Saddam Husayn's leadership. They asserted that they will fairly explain to the British public the situation in Iraq and demand lifting the embargo.

UN Turns Down Request To Maintain Aircraft

JN1705095993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 May 93 p 10

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini said Sunday the United Nations had turned down an Iraqi request to assemble all its civil aircrafts, now in a number of airports, in a neighbouring country to make the necessary maintenance for them. In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. al-Ma'ini said Iraq had 37 aircraft parked in Arab airports, including 27 in Iran, four in Tunisia and six in Jordan.

He said Iraq also had 18 ships anchored at Arab and foreign ports.

Mr. al-Ma'ini said the rejection by the U.N. of the Iraqi request will not make it possible for Iraq, even if the embargo is lifted, to fly these planes because of lack of proper maintenance.

"This means that Iraq will lose billions of dollars," he said.

He said his government reserved the right to claim compensation for the loss.

Mr. al-Ma'ini said Iraq had made contacts through diplomatic channels with the U.N. and international humanitarian organisations to use its planes for transporting medicine and foodstuffs for Iraq or to assemble these plans and ships in any neighbouring Arab country but was denied permission.

The Iraqi request was made in New York last month by the head of Iraqi Airways.

Iraq sent its 22 Russian-built and 15 American-made civil airliners to foreign airports just before the 1991 Gulf war.

Commenting on the meeting of the General Assembly of the Joint Iraqi-Jordanian land Transport Company, which was held here Saturday, Mr. al-Ma'ini said the assembly discussed the company's financial situation, financial accounts and its general budget for the year 1992 and the estimated 1993 budget as well as the company's statute. He said Jordan and Iraq were interested in developing the company and expanding its activities.

PLO Envoy Praises Saddam's Initiative on Palestine

JN1505130593 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 15. INA—Palestinian ambassador to Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad said President Saddam Husayn's initiative on Aug. 12. 1990 had proved Iraq's commitment to the Arab national issues, in the forefront of which Palestine, and stressed a fact no one could deny that the region's issues were interrelated historically and realistically.

In an interview to AL-'IRAQ daily today on the 45th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, Mr. al-Ahmad said the initiative exposed the double standard policy pursued by the United States through its hegemony over the United Nations, the body responsible for issuing resolutions on different world issues.

Commenting on Iraq's position on the Palestinian uprising, Mr. al-Ahmad said Iraq was one of the main Arab countries that had been fully committed to providing material and political support for the uprising, referring to Iraq's backing of the political stand of the Palestine Liberation Organization at Arab and international fora.

The Palestinian official highly appreciated President Saddam Husayn's decision to consider every uprising martyr an Iraqi citizen, describing the decision as a true expression of Iraq's Arabism.

On the Palestinian participation in the settlement negotiations, Mr. al-Ahmad said the Palestinians were forced to take part in Madrid negotiations, pointing out that this did not mean bowing to the Zionist will and the American demands.

Mr. al-Ahmad said there was sharp contradiction between what the enemy wanted from the negotiations and what the Palestinians demanded, confirming that the Palestinians called for full Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967. While the Israelis wanted peace for peace, i.e. they rejected the idea of withdrawal.

Arab League Stand on Airspace 'Violations' Criticized

JN1805104393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has called on the Arab League to take a clear stand on persistent violations of Iraq's airspace by aircraft of the U.S.-led alliance.

In an article published today, AL-'IRAQ daily said that, as well as amounting to blatant aggression, these infringements represent a challenge to the Joint Arab Defence Pact and a departure by certain League members from the organization's charter, citing the facilities they provide for the hostile aircraft.

The Arab League should shoulder its pan-Arab responsibilities, and, at any rate, condemn these violations and the League members that supply facilities for the hostile aircraft, the paper said.

This situation highlights the sorry state of the Arab League and sets a serious precedent for collective Arab action, in that the League condones some of its members making their facilities available for foreigners engaged in hostile activity against fellow Arabs.

AL-'IRAQ observed that Iraq is a founding and important League member, and, in this capacity, has invariably championed Arab rights. The Arab League will have either to take the right pan-Arab approach and thus condemn these violations, or bury its head in the sand like an ostrich, AL-'IRAQ concluded.

Saddam Congratulates Turkey's Demirel on Election

JN1705141293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to Turkey's President Suleyman Demirel on his election as president of his country.

The cable states:

On the occasion of your election as president of the Republic of Turkey, it pleases me to send to Your Excellency our congratulations and wishes of restoring ties between Iraq and Turkey to the level that reflects the meaning of good-neighborliness and responds to the aspirations and feeling of the two friendly peoples. For our part, this is what we hope to see in your new responsibility.

Wishing you good health and happiness and the friendly and neighboring people of Turkey continued progress and prosperity. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Saddam Receives Algerian Education Minister

JN1505171293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Dr. Ahmed Djebbar, minister of national education in Algeria. Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz attended the meeting.

Ba'th Party Signs Protocol With Jordanian Party

JN1805065193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpt] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party [JDPP] have signed a cooperation protocol. It was signed by comrade head of the Foreign Relations Office of the ASBP Iraq Command and JDPP Secretary General 'Ali 'Amir.

The protocol provides for exchanging visits and expertise and coordinating efforts and stands in the interest of the joint pan- Arab struggle and in the service of the Arab nation's objectives. [passage omitted]

'Ridiculous' Kuwaiti Story Denied; Western Press Slammed

JN1605111993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0717 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—The Iraqi papers published here today have affirmed that Iraq is neither fond of adventures nor does it believe in or practice political assassinations. Therefore, contrary to what the rulers imposed on Kuwait have claimed, Iraq did not attempt to assassinate Bush.

In editorials and articles published today, the newspapers said that in its decisive confrontation of the barbaric aggressors, Iraq disdains such practices.

The papers add that the U.S. Administration and its hired trumpets have nothing to do other than fabricate pretexts to harm Iraq and launch successive waves of futile anti-Iraq psychological warfare, which all seem to add up to much ado about nothing.

In an editorial under the headline "Their Allegations and Their Confessions," the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, speaking for the Defense Ministry says: Evidently, in their desperate attempts to harm steadfast, proud Iraq, which has shattered their schemes, the enemies of Iraq have started to launch statements haphazardly.

The paper continues: When the furor of the media campaign over Iraq's alleged involvement in the so-called attempt to assassinate Bush and over Iraq's decision to invalidate its 25-dinar foreign-printed banknote abated, they began to beat the drums of a campaign concerning the United Nations' withdrawal of its guards from northern Iraq. This decision has been deemed by their trumpets a fatal blow to their treasonous agents in the region.

The paper explains that the enemy trumpets, especially the BBC and the British daily THE INDEPENDENT, went to extremes in this new line. In their reports and interviews with agents and dwarves in northern Iraq, such as Muhsin Daz'i, these trumpets expressed those agents' panic following the UN decision, which was attributed to the lack of funds.

The paper wonders whether those who allegedly received orders from Iraq have not in fact received orders from their masters who protect them.

The paper affirms that the cries of the agents in northern Iraq reflect the state of affairs of those who link their fate to foreigners, seek their protection, and live on the crumbs of their "relief."

Concluding, the paper says that the Iraqis, who protect themselves with their own weapons and live by the work of their own hands and the sweat of their brow, scorn the blockade and will shatter it with their hard work and diligence. They will continue to wage the media and psychological warfare against the hostile coalition, and will win this warfare round after round.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH compares the allegations launched by the regime imposed on Kuwait regarding the attempt to assassinate Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait to the incubator story propagated by Kuwaiti Information Minister Sa'ud al-Sabah's daughter. To fabricate this lie, the Kuwaiti rulers paid millions of dollars to the U.S. public affairs office which supervised the fabrication of "this ridiculous story."

The paper says that through the lie of charging Iraq with attempting to assassinate Bush, the Kuwaiti rulers have returned to the same style they followed when Iraq restored Kuwait. They have resorted to this lie now that the hostile forces have become certain that their wagers on internal pockets have failed and that the Iraqi people are united behind their historic leader Saddam Husayn.

The paper questions the motives behind the return by the rulers imposed on Kuwait to such provocative methods. The paper says that it is easy to detect the motives of the al-Sabah family, which has been nurtured on subordination and corruption. He who loses his national pride necessarily loses all individual moral restraints.

The paper continues: It is common knowledge now that this family is not only a source of corruption, it is also void of any moral restraints and human conscience. Thus, this family and its leaders once again affirm its full moral, national, and human deterioration.

The paper affirms that the U.S. apparent reservations were primarily due the U.S. Administration's failure to convince the U.S. public opinion and Congress.

The paper affirms that there is still a trend inside the U.S. intelligence service, the Government, and the State Department which advocates continuation of the course of antagonizing Iraq in the Bush way. However, this

trend is facing objective and real facts, foremost being that the current U.S. Administration has to a certain extent opted for a different style than that of the previous government in dealing with Iraq. The current government now needs to some extent to calm down the question of Iraq for U.S. domestic and regional purposes. Besides, the Clinton government is facing complicated economic problems which make it practically unwilling, under the current circumstances, to escalate the situation with Iraq, especially militarily, irrespective of the bad intentions.

The paper indicates that there is a strong trend within the U.S. Congress and U.S. public opinion opposed to U.S. involvement in a new crisis based on a Kuwaiti lie. The paper says that it is this trend that caused the U.S. Government to have reservations, conduct an investigation, and declare that there are doubts about the story of the al-Sabah family.

The paper recalls the telephone call which CNN received from a woman in which she said that the American people do not believe that story.

Concluding its article, the paper asks: If the U.S. public opinion and Congress know these facts and realize that the Kuwaiti Government is violating human rights, why then do the Western news media obliterate these facts? Why is information on the torture and expulsion of journalists from Kuwait withheld? Why are the arbitrary acts against workers and the indecent assaults on foreign women in Kuwait not exposed?

In answering these questions, the paper concludes: The answer is known. The U.S. media are certainly under strong Zionist influence. Therefore, they pressure the government to make it adopt more hostile options against Iraq and the Arabs. This is despite the fact that America's circumstances and real interests do not favor such a trend.

Oil Minister Cited on Post-Embargo Plans

JN1605181693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has stated that Iraq is drawing up future plans to restore its historic position in oil markets.

In statements to the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH published here today, the minister added that Iraqi oil will be instrumental in remedying many economic imbalances and settling debts during the next decade once the embargo is lifted.

The minister noted that Iraq has confirmed oil reserves totaling 110 billion barrels—a matter that puts Iraq at the forefront of important states on the international scene. The minister added that these plans provide for immediately starting efforts to develop gigantic oil fields to increase the country's production capacity, given that Iraq will be an extremely important country in the international oil market once the embargo is lifted.

The minister pointed out that reservoirs which contain light oils will be exploited to obtain highly priced oils and competitive power in international markets. Technology will be used to transform heavy oils, which contain a high degree of sulfur and asphalt, into highly competitive light oils.

The minister asserted that the strategic plan of the Ministry of Oil aims to reach a permanent production capacity of 6.5 million barrels per day by the end of the century. This capacity, he noted, will mostly be achieved by exploiting and developing new oil fields. Flexibility, he maintained, will be sought to ensure a smooth flow of oil through any possible outlets to meet market and pricing requirements. Furthermore, the minister said, the fleet of crude oil tankers will be reinforced.

'Large Irrigation Project' in North Outlined

JN1605143093 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Iraq is currently implementing a large irrigation project near Mosul in the north, AL-QADISSIYAH daily reported.

Quoting President Saddam Husayn's adviser in charge of industry and oil in the country, Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the newspaper said the al-Jazirah project is expected to be commissioned late this year and would be able to irrigate 140,000 donums (each donum equals 2,500 square metres) of land.

The land that will be irrigated by the project extends from al-Rabi'ah Sub-district near Mosul to the southwest of the lake of Saddam Dam.

The land will be suitable for planting winter and summer crops, particularly wheat.

Lieutenant-General Hasan told the newspaper that each donum is expected to produce a tonne of grain annually.

The president's adviser said work to execute the project started on January 4, 1993 to complete phases two and three of the project.

Phase one was completed by Yugoslav and Turkish firms which were supposed to implement the project. The two firms suspended their work on August 15, 1990 following the imposition of the trade sanctions on Iraq, the president's adviser said.

He said the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation concluded a contract with the two firms in 1989. The contract was worth 23 million dollars as well as five million Iraqi dinars, he added.

The project is being implemented by specialists from the ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, Industry and Minerals and the Military Industry Commission.

Al-Jazirah northern project is not the only irrigation system being constructed. Three artificial rivers have been constructed in various parts of the country.

Most recently, engineers of the Military Industry Commission have completed work on digging a large canal called the fifth river.

The river, which irrigates some half a million acres (each acre equals 4,000 square metres) of land was commissioned last April.

The river runs through the southern Provinces of al-Najaf, al-Muthanna, al-Qadisiyah and Dhi Qar.

The 140-km river runs from al-Najaf Province on the western part of the Euphrates and ends in the Sulaybat depression, at the historical site of Eridu, Dhi Qar Province.

The aim of the river is mainly to collect drainage water in the areas it passes through.

Saddam River (third river) was dug and commissioned in 1992. The river, which extends for 551 kms from north of Baghdad to al-Basrah in the south helps plant more than six million donums of land.

The river which was dug between the main Iraqi rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, aims at collecting drainage water in the land between the two big rivers, thus making more land suitable for agriculture.

Umm al-Ma'arik River named after the recent battle Iraq has fought against the 33-nation aggression in 1991 was also commissioned in southern Iraq earlier this year.

The 120-km river was dug in 45 days and runs through southern Iraqi provinces.

CBI To Consider Applications To Deal in Foreign Currency

JN1405133193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 May 93

[Excerpt] The governor of the Central Bank of Iraq [CBI] has stated the following to the Iraqi News Agency:

Out of a desire to organize the buying and selling of foreign currency and to put an end to the chaos observed since the decision to allow the public to keep and deal in foreign currency inside the country came into force; and in accordance with Paragraph 2, Article 60 of the amended Central Bank of Iraq Law No. 64 of 1976, the CBI will start considering applications for a license by those who wish to reengage in brokering and foreign currency dealings in keeping with instructions from the CBI board of directors.

The instructions stipulate that trading be confined to a limited number of companies established in accordance with the amended Law No. 36 of 1983. [passage omitted]

'Hidden Implications' of Dinar Decision Viewed

NC1505111493 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 9 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: The Political Implications of the Iraqi Dinar Storm]

[Excerpts] Last Wednesday [5 May], the Iraqi Government suddenly decided to close its borders with Jordan and the Kurdish safe haven in northern Iraq and announced that it has put out of circulation the 25-dinar banknotes, which came to be known as the Swiss dinars. These dinars were printed in Britain before the Gulf war and are different from those printed in Iraq. [passage omitted]

There are indications that this step has hidden political implications that cannot be ignored, particularly because the greater share of the 25-dinar banknotes were being circulated in Jordan and the Kurdish safe haven in northern Iraq.

Observers believe that this Iraqi step aimed to kill three birds with one stone.

The first "bird" has to do with the economics. The Iraqi Government wanted to protect the dinar, even in the short term, against deterioration against other foreign currencies, especially the U.S. dollar, and subsequently curb the wave of inflation in Iraq. Observers, however, question the success of this attempt, because the withdrawal of these banknotes is bound to discredit the Iraqi dinar and trigger other negative results that will appear in the next few months.

The second "bird" was to punish Jordan, which recently showed some opposition to Iraqi policy and sought to dissolve its old alliance with the Iraqi regime. Jordanian banks and merchants have billions of these Swiss dinars. Taking these banknotes out of circulation brings about economic disaster in Jordan. Signs of such disaster have already started to emerge on the streets; hospitals are receiving scores of persons who had nervous breakdowns when they lost their wealth as a result of the Iraqi decision.

The third and last "bird" was to put pressure on the Kurds—who broke communications with the regime and later resumed dialogue with it—through an economic blow. However, some observers believe that this decision might backfire, because the Kurds might seek to partly lift economic sanctions in their region and issue their own currency and thus lay the first brick in dividing Iraq in practice.

It is clear that the three "birds" flew even before the Iraqi stone could reach them. Moreover, this stone might turn back and fatally hit Iraq. Some try to remind us that the storm of canceling the Swiss dinars has unmasked growing personal hostilities between King Husayn and his false friend Saddam Husayn and that their honeymoon which ended a long time ago has started to develop into quarrels and brawls. The cancellation decision was

followed by another one that suspended Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan. This will put Jordan in an awkward position. It is said that Saddam only sacrificed his relations with Jordan when he opened the door wide to Iran and could therefore do without Jordan's service.

Regime Reportedly Assassinates Lt. Gen. Sultan

NC1705170493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] A reliable source has informed us that the Iraqi regime has assassinated Lieutenant General Ayad Thabit Sultan. Reports indicate that the mercenaries of [Defense Minister] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid were behind the assassination. These reports say these mercenaries arrested Sultan and his body was later found on the road leading to al-Kut town.

Lt. Gen. Ayat Thabit Sultan had recently been put under strict surveillance by the Iraqi regime's repressive services.

Baghdad, Tehran Said To Move Simultaneously Against Kurds

PM1705151993 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 May 93 p 20

[Jean Pierre Perrin report: "Baghdad and Tehran on Kurds' Back"]

[Text] An Iranian offensive and bombing in the northeast, an Iraqi raid against villages on the 36th parallel (which the United Nations has forbidden Baghdad's forces to cross), and at the same time Iraq is financially strangling the Kurd population, whose money has suddenly ceased to be legal tender: Iraqi Kurdistan is once again facing tragic times, while the United Nations yesterday announced that it is to repatriate its "Blue Helmets" deployed in Northern Iraq due to lack of funds.

According to Iranian and Iraqi Kurdish sources, Tehran's army, which started bombing the Iraqi Kurdish border 24 April, has been occupying a strip 5 km wide in the Banjwin region for a week. Bombing along the entire border region is said to be heavy, causing the Kurdish population to flee. The same sources claim that more than 100,000 Iranian soldiers are deployed on the other side of the border and do not rule out the possibility that the arrival of these forces presages a sizable attack in the Hajj-'Umran region (northern Iraqi Kurdistan).

For its part, the Iraqi Army has advanced near the villages of Awana [name as published] and Gird Azaban (some 20 km southeast of Irbil). Apparently, according to Safin Diyazi, the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kurdistan's (DPK) representative in Ankara, Iraqi forces contented themselves with "seizing the farmers' harvest." This raid follows an attack by Iraqi forces on Awana 13 and 14 March during which 22 villagers were massacred and 15 others wounded. On these various fronts the Iraqi and Iranian Peshmerga (Kurdish fighters) have not put up even token armed resistance.

The fact that Iranian and Iraqi attacks have coincided seems to owe nothing to chance. Indeed, it is significant that Iranian penetration inside Iraq has not been denounced by Baghdad at international level. "Tehran has never agreed to the creation of a politically autonomous Kurdistan. By launching this attack, Iran is seeking to sow discord between Iraqi and Iranian Kurds, and to provoke conflict between the two main Kurdish parties (the DPK and the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan])," was the analysis of Iranian DPK Secretary General Mustafa Hijri, stopping over in Paris. "Psychologically, the Iraqi Kurds are being shown that Western protection is no protection at all. Iran can do what it wants when it wants. Tehran has bombed several times beyond the UN 'security zone' without any international response. That sows confusion in the Kurds' minds and, at the same time, it means that it is implicitly acknowledged that Iran has a role to play," a Kurdish intellectual exiled in Paris added.

But the threat is not only military. By withdrawing 25-dinar bank notes as of 5 May—the claimed reason being the need to stop its currency from depreciating—and by preventing Kurds from trading in their notes, the Iraqi Government has started to strangle the Kurdish enclave economically. Already, food and fuel prices have doubled in some cases, and even trebled. The Kurdish "Government" (which does not have international recognition) has called the monetary measures taken by Baghdad "a new economic war against Kurdistan" and has responded by calling on the United Nations to unfreeze frozen Iraqi assets for the benefit of the Kurdish population. It has also threatened to create its own currency, naturally linked to the dinar; this would be a further step along the road to the independence of the enclave, which is de facto virtually independent already.

The last great worry for the Kurdish people is the departure, which began yesterday, of the 236 or so UN "Blue Helmets" deployed in Iraqi Kurdistan. One of their tasks was to protect humanitarian convoys from the Turkish border, which are regularly ambushed by Iraqi agents.

Rabin on Jerusalem's Part in Peace Talks' Interim Arrangements

TA1705172193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin is convinced that the negotiations with the Arab delegations will resume soon. Mr. Rabin says that the talks have not failed. He emphasized that united Jerusalem will under no circumstances be included in the negotiations over the interim arrangements. Yitzhaq Rabin made these remarks during the Labor Knesset faction meeting today. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The prime minister admitted that the peace talks, while not being a failure, are also not a big success. Rabin said that the closure, more than anything else, sharpened the distinction between united Jerusalem and Elon More [Jewish settlement near Nablus]. Rabin said that Jerusalem is part of the state of Israel and will not be included in any interim arrangement. He added that if we include the PLO in the talks they will raise the issue of Jerusalem, thereby causing an explosion. Rabin expressed regret over the fact that Israel's agreement to include Faysal al-Husayni in the Palestinian delegation did not have a positive effect.

Referring to the Syrians, Rabin said they do not want normalization at this point, claiming that Resolution 242 does not refer to normalization. Rabin added that Israel does not accept this. It is clear, however, that the talks with them will continue:

[Rabin] The atmosphere was much more congenial. Listening to the comments made by the head of the Syrian delegation, we note that the Syrians are attacking us, but they also issued a declaration regarding their commitment to the continuation of the peace process.

[Hecht] Ya'el Dayan asked why small children are being hurt in the territories. Is this the price they have to pay over there for our internal security, Dayan asked. Yitzhaq Rabin said he regretted every casualty, but added that we should mainly be concerned about the economic situation in the territories at the present. [end recording]

Beilin Sees No Threat in 'Full Implementation' of 242

TA1705180393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says Israel should accept the Palestinian demand for full implementation of UN Resolution 242. He says since Israel has always maintained that 242 allows for territorial compromise, its full implementation should not be regarded as a threat. Beilin was briefing diplomatic reporters about his recent visit to the United States and his talks with the U.S. Administration. In an interview with reporter Jack Katzenell, Beilin advocated greater American involvement in the bilateral negotiations, without the restrictions which the Israeli side had placed upon this involvement:

[Begin recording] [Beilin] Well, I believe that there was not a real progress in the last round and that for quite a long time we are in a kind of a status quo. I believe that what we need is more intensive American involvement in the process, and without such an involvement I cannot see real big progress in the peace process. I think it is in our interest to have another kind of American involvement and that is also the interest of the other parties. If the Americans will understand that it is our wish, I hope that they will be involved. If they think that it is not of our interest that they will be involved, then they won't.

[Katzenell] About the actual positions that the Israeli side has taken in these bilateral talks, would you advocate accepting any of the exhortations or criticisms that the Americans are making towards us?

[Beilin] I'm not sure. I think that some of the reasons for our inability to have real progress in the process is that the Palestinians actually did not agree to some of the proposals because they wanted to put pressures on the Americans to get for them money from the Saudis and it had nothing to do with the negotiations themselves.

[Katzenell] What about this whole business of our opposition to full implementation of Resolution 242? For Israel, this seems to be a threat, a kind of demand for full withdrawal. Would you advocate that Israel accept such a formula?

[Beilin] Well, I can only say that the Americans were quite astonished by the fact that we, who are so much for the implementation of 242 for so many years, are against full implementation of that resolution.

[Katzenell] But, isn't there a threat involved here?

[Beilin] I do not see any threat to full implementation of 242. That was our ideology for the last 26 years. [end recording]

Rabin Claims No Crisis in Talks, Good Beginning Made

TA1605133993 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 May 93 p 3

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is unwilling to commit himself to normalization in ties with Israel during this stage of the political negotiations, even if a peace arrangement between the two countries is achieved later on in the negotiations.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday confirmed to MA'ARIV that this is indeed the situation at the end of the ninth round of talks, and this is why Israel refuses to discuss the extent of withdrawal on the Golan.

MA'ARIV has learned from diplomatic sources that even prior to the resumption of the peace talks, President al-Asad clarified to the United States that Syria has no intention of exchanging ambassadors or of maintaining an open border with Israel. This was said by senior Syrian officials to Edward Djerejian in the framework of a lightening visit to Damascus held on the eve of the ninth round of talks, at the same time that Sam Lewis visited Israel.

The prime minister confirmed this report without explicitly referring to Djerejian's visit. Rabin said: "The position of the Syrians at this stage is that UN Resolution 242 does not refer to normalization in relations with Israel. There is no certainty that their interpretation of "full peace" coincides with our interpretation, and therefore we are not reacting to their demand for a full withdrawal. This is the situation at this point. We will have to see how things develop in future. We are negotiating a permanent peace arrangement with Syria, not an interim arrangement. We have patience."

The prime minister rejected the claim that there is a crisis in the talks. He accused the PLO leaders in Tunis and Yasir 'Arafat of foiling the U.S. effort to carry through a joint declaration of principles with the Palestinians. Rabin emphasized: "The period of unilateral gestures toward the Palestinians as a condition for the continuation of the negotiations is over. They want more and more gestures, but our position is simple—without a significant drop in violence we will not agree to implement more easing measures. If significant progress is made in negotiations over the interim arrangement our attitude will change. If terrorism stops and violence decreases, then we will not need the closure.

"Those who expected a breakthrough were perhaps disappointed, but the truth is that there was a good beginning, and the Arabs' intentions will be tested in the future. The Americans want to resume the talks on 7 or 14 June, and we support this."

Rabin criticized the extreme left for exerting pressure to offer additional concessions: "Those who cry out that there is a crisis in the negotiations are apparently trying to create the impression that there is no alternative to direct talks with 'Arafat, but I am not impressed by this. We will negotiate only with the Palestinian delegation."

Rabin Postpones Russia Visit, Considers Recalling Peres

TA1805075993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 May 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to cancel his scheduled visit to Russia at the end of May. The prime minister's bureau has asked the Russian authorities to postpone the visit by several weeks, and it is assumed that Moscow will accept the request with a sigh of relief in view of the domestic problems Boris Yeltsin's administration is facing.

Labor's Knesset faction is considering the possibility of "urgently recalling" Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres from his tour of the Far East to take part in the no-confidence vote at the Knesset on 24 May. The Labor faction fears that if the coalition crisis is not resolved, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] may quit the coalition by then, which could make recalling Peres, who is due in China that day, necessary. Peres was originally scheduled to return to Israel on 25 May.

Red Cross To Examine Bodies Amal Claims Are IDF Soldiers

TA1705153493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Red Cross will examine at Israel's request two bodies held by the Amal organization, which are, according to Amal leader Nabih Birri, those of Israeli soldiers. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that two years ago Birri claimed he held the bodies of two Israeli soldiers. Israeli security sources have already clarified in the past, however, that there is no certainty the bodies are those of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Approximately two months ago, when Israel released several Hizballah detainees, Birri again proposed that Israel examine the bodies, in exchange for the release of 14 women from the al-Khiyam prison in south Lebanon. Israel rejected this demand, but negotiations were launched which eventually resulted in the release of five Shiite women from prison.

Approximately two hours ago Amal issued an announcement in Beirut saying that the agreement stipulates that the Red Cross can examine the two bodies. Our correspondent notes that the women were released in exchange for the permission to check the identity of the bodies. If it transpires that the bodies are indeed those of IDF soldiers, negotiations will resume toward returning them to Israel.

Rabin Fears Coalition Crisis Could Harm Peace Process

TA1705143193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin fears that the coalition crisis could harm the peace process. Following a meeting with the Labor Knesset faction members, Mr. Rabin said that if the Arab countries reach the conclusion that there is no stable government in Israel, they could suspend the peace process.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Rabin informed the faction members that with Meretz's approval he will begin coalition negotiations with Tzomet and the National Religious Party, but not with Agudat Yisra'el [one of the components of United Torah Jewry].

Der'i To Postpone Resignation; No Sign of End to Crisis

TA1805061393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party leadership met last night to discuss the coalition crisis. After the meeting, Knesset Member Shlomo Benizri said his party welcomed the prime minister's announcement of plans to widen the coalition. Yesterday the prime minister said he planned to begin talks with Tzomet and the National Religious Party [NRP]. Meretz Minister Yosi Sarid said his party would make every effort to prevent Tzomet from joining the coalition. Miryam Herschlag reports on the latest developments:

The coalition crisis, it appears, is not going away any time soon. Chances are that, as agreed last week, Education Minister Shulamit Aloni and Interior Minister Arye Der'i will turn over their portfolios to the prime minister tomorrow. The opposition is sure to take the opportunity to hold a Knesset debate, a debate which Prime Minister Rabin would most certainly prefer to do without. At a meeting with the Knesset Labor caucus, Rabin even said he feared the crisis could have a detrimental effect on the peace process. He warned that if the Arab countries believe the Israeli Government is not stable, they could suspend the process.

Another sign the crisis will drag on: Minister Der'i says he agreed to a request by Labor Minister Hayim Ramon and the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Shim'on Sheves, and will postpone handing in his resignation until next Tuesday [25 May]. In effect, this extends his resignation until the following Sunday, May 30th; that's because a ministerial resignation must be submitted at a cabinet meeting, which generally takes place on Sundays.

Meanwhile Shulamit Aloni says she, too, will hand over her portfolio tomorrow. She says the only arrangement she will accept would be the one originally proposed by Prime Minister Rabin—that is, her get?ing the culture and communications portfolio and Meretz's Amnon Rubinstein taking over education. In fact, she said this was the only solution that has been proposed to her. But Der'i told Israel Radio that the SHAS party remains opposed to Aloni as minister of culture.

The prime minister told the Labor caucus that he had the nod from Meretz to enter coalition talks with Tzomet and the NRP, in addition to contacts already under way with the United Torah Jewry list. Aloni, however, told Israel Radio that while Rabin can talk with whomever he liked, Meretz would retain its right to veto any realignments. Minister Yosi Sarid was more forthright on the matter. He said Meretz would block any efforts to bring Tzomet into the government. He said Tzomet would be a millstone around the neck of any government trying to achieve piece.

The coalition crisis: To be continued.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 18 May adds: "The NRP and Tzomet announced today that they do not intend to be a pawn in Yitzhaq Rabin's coalition game, and they do not plan to negotiate their joining the coalition until the current crisis is resolved." The report adds that "approached by the prime minister's bureau concerning a date for a meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin," "Tzomet Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan said he will gladly meet with the prime minister, but only after the coalition crisis is over."]

Peace Team Returns, Chief Delegate Comments

JN1705063193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] On arrival home of the Jordanian delegation from the peace talks in Washington, chief delegate Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali said that Jordan's policy in the negotiations depends on the extent of progress achieved on the Palestinian track, given that it is the core of the conflict with Israel.

[Begin al-Majali recording] According to his majesty the king's instructions, and while fully maintaining our Jordanian constants, we take Arab coordination into serious consideration. We do not allow ourselves to move ahead if the other Arab tracks are not proceeding well, especially the Palestinian track. This is because the core of the issue is the Palestine question. If nothing happens on the Palestinian track, nothing will happen on other tracks. [end recording]

Bases for Holding 10th Round of Talks Questioned

JN1605083393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 May 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Why the 10th Round?"]

[Text] When an observer contemplates the U.S. invitation to hold the 10th round of negotiations he must wonder about the basis on which the U.S. Administration has invited the negotiators to another round, now that the ninth round has ended in grave failure, and the Palestinian and Arab negotiators have been bitterly disappointed.

The U.S. Administration, which is regarded as a full partner in the negotiations, has not played an appropriate role, so the ninth round could not achieve any substantial progress. Rather, it played an abortive role while supporting the intransigent Israeli stand which refuses to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy and disavows the land-for-peace principle.

Israel is responsible for foiling the ninth round as well as the previous eight rounds of negotiations. The U.S. Administration is also as much responsible for this failure because it did not fulfill its pledges and promises on whose basis the ninth round was held. This has encouraged Israel to continue the policy of procrastination, maneuvering, and placing successive obstacles in the way of the peace process in order to foil it. Nevertheless, the U.S. Administration calls for holding the 10th round of negotiations. This, in itself, evokes questions and suspicion about the U.S. intentions.

Perhaps, by seeking to resume and maintain the negotiations, the U.S. Administration seeks to provide a political cover for Israel before world public opinion in order to conceal the occupation authorities practices against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories in terms of acts of violence, terrorism, repression, and mass killings, as well as Israel's expansionist and settlement policy at the expense of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

Now that the U.S. Administration has not fulfilled its pledges to render the negotiations a success, why and on what basis has it invited the Palestinian and Arab negotiators to participate in the 10th round?

Arab Detente Said To Worry Egyptian Media

JN1705094493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 May 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Signs of Arab Detente Provoke the Hired Trumpets"]

[Text] It seems that nothing on earth worries or grieves the Cairo-based newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH more than seeing the signs of detente in Arab relations looming on the region's horizon.

Joining other Egyptian trumpets in the heated attempts to legitimatize the 30-state aggression on Iraq after aggravating and exploding the Kuwait crisis and after pouring oil on the fire of grudges and intrigues, this hired media trumpet still refuses to halt the fomentation of seditions among fraternal states, and fights any sign of detente or rapprochement in Arab relations.

These hired trumpets have played a hateful instigative role to abort the sincere endeavors aimed at finding an Arab solution to the Kuwait crisis and avoiding the destructive war of aggression which had tragic repercussions on the entire Arab nation.

Moreover, these cheap trumpets hailed the 30-state aggression and publicized its false legitimacy. They also stood in the trench of the nation's enemies and under their banners while launching unfair campaigns against Jordan, Iraq, and the leaders who tried to extinguish the sedition's fire and who endeavored to achieve Arab accord for which the whole nation aspires.

It seems that the campaign of these rancorous hired trumpets against Jordan and its unique historic leadership is not yet over. When these trumpets saw Jordan emerging from its economic crisis, caused by both the Arab boycott and the western embargo, stronger than ever before and more determined to stand in its nation's trench, and also when these trumpets noted that the ones behind the sedition and their malicious plots against the nation have collapsed, they resorted to fabricating lies and slanders against both Jordan and Iraq.

The article written by AL-JUMHURIYAH's chief editor about an alleged Jordanian-Iraqi agreement to annul the Iraqi 25-dinar banknote is a new attempt to instigate the parties of the Hafar al- Batin camp against Jordan and Iraq. It is also a desperate attempt which exposes the extent of isolation, frustration, despair, and grave failure felt by these hired trumpets.

It is no secret to any observer that these Egyptian trumpets seek to fabricate battles outside Egypt in order

to distract the Egyptian public opinion from the regime's political, economic, and security crises, especially since these trumpets have noted that the shaykhs of Kuwait, who gave former U.S. President George Bush a heroes' welcome, have not paid much attention to the role of the Egyptian leadership and trumpets, contrary to these trumpets' expectations. Thus, these trumpets have returned from their Gulf tour full of disappointment, despair, frustration, and defeat.

Let these trumpets stop their cawing against the country of mobilization and steadfastness and its unique Hashemite leadership, because there is no one throughout the Arab region who believes their lies and slanders. These trumpets should reconsider their calculations, so they can discover that they are the main losers.

Brotherhood Seeks Release of Returnees From Pakistan

JN1705100893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 May 93 pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament has urged the release of about 15 Jordanians it claims were detained by security forces upon return from Pakistan in the last few weeks.

A delegation from the bloc, headed by its spokesman Ibrahim Khuraysat, demanded the release of the alleged detainees during a meeting with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir Saturday.

"The meeting was positive and al-Sharif Zayd promised to consider the issue and find a suitable solution for it," Mr. Khuraysat told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"We are satisfied with his answer, but our satisfaction will not be complete until all the detainees are released," he said.

Mr. Khuraysat contended the detainees were Jordanian citizens who were providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. "They were not involved in the fighting," and decided to return home after many of the Afghan refugees returned back to their country," he said.

Mr. Khuraysat said none of the detained were among Arab nationals who were expelled by Pakistan in a crackdown on foreign militants who had fought along with the Afghan Mujahedeen to topple the communist regime of President Najibullah in Kabul.

Minister of Interior Jawdat al-Subul could not be reached and other government sources declined comment on the alleged arrests.

"These people (the detainees) are a source of pride for Jordan because they responded to calls for help from their brethren. It is painful to see them arrested and denied the chance to meet with their families," Mr. Khuraysat said, adding that his parliamentary bloc learned of their arrest from their relatives.

He said the Brotherhood believes those people were detained for questioning on the kind of work they did in Pakistan. And while his group does not object to the investigation, he said, the Brotherhood sees no reason for their detention.

"They could have been allowed to go home and then summoned for questioning. There is no need for detaining them," he asserted.

A statement issued by the bloc Sunday said other issues discussed in the meeting included "harassment" to Jordanians upon travelling to and from the country as well as to people who belong to political parties.

Mr. Khuraysat said the bloc presented the prime minister with names of people who were harassed at the airport, including a University of Jordan professor who is a member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

The statement said the bloc presented the prime minister with a memorandum detailing the Brotherhood deputies' views on a number of issues pertaining to public freedoms and the democratic process.

Islamic Leader on Elections, U.S. Envoy's Activities

JN1605103093 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 12 May 93 p 17

[Interview with Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, by 'Amir al-Tall in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Tall] What strategy will you adopt in the next elections?

[Al-Farhan] One cannot accurately speak about this topic before the formation of a transitional government that will be in charge of the elections, and that will outline what program, policies, and stands it will adopt on the elections and the constituencies. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tall] There is apprehension that the Islamists will win and that they will use democracy to cancel it. Will you try to secure as many seats as possible, or will you in the Islamic Action Front [IAF] take into account the results of the Algerian experience?

[Al-Farhan] I would like to tell those who are apprehensive about the success of the Islamists that there is absolutely no reason for such fears because circumstances of the Jordanian regime and the Islamic movement are not similar to those prevailing in Algeria. A comparison cannot be made in this respect.

As for the Islamists possible victory, we leave this for the Jordanian voters. Those who are eager to enhance democracy must accept the results that such a democracy

will produce, irrespective of these results. From our part, we will accept the people's choice and decision because we are eager to entrench the principle of Shura and democracy and because we want all political forces to be represented in the next House of Representatives.

[Al-Tall) What do you have to say to President Clinton's statements on democracy in Jordan?

[Al-Farhan] I am astonished at President Clinton's excessive interest in Jordan's domestic affairs, particularly in the details about the forces that influence democracy. I also disapprove of his warning the Jordanian ambassador that there are some parties which he claims are exploiting democracy for their own purposes, that is, to assume power. This is being unfair to the Islamists and is part of falling under the influence of the Western mentality in confronting what they call Islamic fundamentalism. It also demonstrates a lack of knowledge about the Jordanian reality in terms of the unity of the people and its factions and the eagerness of all the official and popular parties in Jordan to render the democratic march a success. Jordanian forces that Clinton imagines seek to exploit democracy to achieve their own interests do not exist. All here in Jordan cooperate to render this march a success. Democracy is a stategic option for Jordan and not a tactical one as the U.S. President imagines. We also blame the diplomatic quarters in Jordan which provide President Clinton with inaccurate information on Jordan's political march, specifically its democratic march. We hope that all the Jordanian politicians will write objective reports, and adopt objective stands and political judgments on the basis of this information.

[Al-Tall) There are reports that the U.S. ambassador in Amman is very active and that meetings are held with the leaders of parties and political figures to influence the course of the forthcoming elections. What do you have to say to this?

[Al-Farhan] I find it strange that the U.S. ambassador tries to give his political opinion on the elections, as UL-UFUQ reported concerning the amendment of the election law. This is a domestic affair. I also am surprised that he meets with the secretaries general of parties and warns them of the IAF. He has asked to meet with me, but the meeting, as yet, has not taken place. I believe the Foreign Ministry should play its role and explain what role foreign ambassadors should play concerning political life in Jordan to prevent foreign interference from harming our domestic affairs. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Views Prospects for 10th Round of Talks

NC1705174893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 93

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, after meeting with members of the delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks upon their return to Beirut, at the Foreign Ministry on 17 May—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] I listened carefully to the delegation's assessment of the negotiations, how deep they went, and their background. The political leadership will hold consultations over this issue. We will also consult with the other Arab parties. There is certainly a need for a clear understanding on whether we will continue negotiating or not. We will also wait for an invitation from the peace conference cosponsors and after this is received, a meeting might be held in Amman to coordinate positions. In light of this meeting, we will decide whether or not to attend the next round of negotiations.

[Correspondent] Did Ambassador Suhayl Shammas convey to you any notification from the United States that good offices will be made to bring the views of the negotiating parties closer?

[Buwayz] The U.S. Administration certainly appears interested in the negotiations. President Clinton's administration attaches priority status to them. If we take into account the messages and signs sent by the U.S. Administration, we must believe that its commitment to the talks still holds.

[Correspondent] Does the assessment you just made with the negotiating delegation encourage the holding of a 10th round of negotiations?

[Buwayz] This peace was intended from the start to be comprehensive. Hence all parties are interested in it. Any unilateral assessment does not give an accurate picture. Progress on all fronts must be taken into account to give such a picture. I believe a sound and accurate assessment can only be made at a meeting where all positions are coordinated.

Chief Negotiator Comments on Talks

NC1705172393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 93

[Statement by chief negotiator Suhayl Shammas, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, upon his return to Beirut from Washington on 17 May—recorded]

[Text] [Shammas] I would like to underline the national constants to which we stick, and the national objectives we seek to achieve, so that any answer I or members of the delegation give can be taken in the right context. Our national objectives are to maintain Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, safety, people's unity, and coexistence.

No matter how varied our national objectives are, the liberation of the occupied Lebanese territory and the complete withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces to the internationally recognized border undoubtedly remain a priority. Thus, we constantly and permanently adhere to the implementation of Resolutions 425 and 426. This is a national objective. We realize our full responsibilities together with the Arab delegations participating in the negotiations. There is continuing, in-depth coordination with all these delegations, especially with fraternal Syria, with which we have special and distinctive relations, not least of which is the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination. Hence the importance and nature of our coordination with Syria. I would like to point out these self-evident principles in our national position, which guide us irrespective of any proposal made to us.

There is no Lebanese evaluation of what has happened independent of the comprehensive Arab evaluation. Naturally, (?major) efforts have been made, especially by the American sponsor, which decided to play the role of a full partner. The Americans tried in this round to activate their role as a full partner to the talks. They practiced this role in different ways, some of which were requested by certain Arab delegations participating in the talks.

But if the evaluation is to be made in light of the practical results, I cannot label what happened—despite the big efforts and the many contacts—as progress. But there was an in-depth search to pinpoint all the primary and secondary problems, and a detailed discussion of how to solve these problems in the future. The nature of the question as to whether the ninth round was positive or negative determines the answer. All I can say is that we must wait for the American position to be translated into practical and actual results. In my estimations, this has not happened so far. This is also the estimation of the heads and members of all the Arab delegations.

[Correspondent] There are reports that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the region to surmount the difficulties facing the negotiations. Do you have any information about this?

[Shammas] I do not personally have any information about such a visit. This is the business of Lebanese Government officials. But as a delegation, we have not been informed about it.

[Co.respondent] How far has the publication of the Israeli document in AL-SAFIR affected the negotiations and the freedom of the Lebanese delegation in the talks, if I can put it this way?

[Shammas] What takes place inside the negotiating halls should remain something for the two negotiating delegations. The situation is critical and words must be responsible. The Lebanese delegation which I have the honor to chair—with these good members who returned to Beirut and the others who remained in their positions of work [pauses]... I would like to say that every question is

sensitive and important. The Israeli delegation referred to this issue in one of the sessions. We told them that we were not familiar with such a published document. They publicly raised this point. I am, therefore, answering. When we left the negotiating hall, the Israeli delegation expressed surprise and astonishment and filed a protest with the Lebanese delegation. Our answer was that we did not see such a document and that we did not know about the matter. This was true. From that moment, the Israelis never raised the point, either inside or outside the negotiating hall. I would like to say something here. I hope the press will carefully examine what takes place. At the end of the last session within the ninth round—its number was 97—the head of the Israeli delegation made a statement which the Lebanese delegation, specifically the head of the Lebanese delegation, considered serious and [words indistinct]. The head of the Israeli delegation publicly said after the session that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon until security arrangements are reached, and only within the framework of a peace treaty. This is what I meant when I said in a joint news conference held by heads of the Arab delegations that such a statement brings to mind the 17 May [1983] agreement. That is, the essence of the declared Israeli position has not changed. They even use the term redeployment. They do not consider their presence in Lebanon as occupation. They even talk about redeployment. We, as a Lebanese delegation, have to confront this with all available means and to maintain Lebanon's negotiating position in light of the instructions of the Lebanese Government. We are there to implement instructions, not to draw the policy of the state.

Defense Minister on Israeli Withdrawal

NC1805090793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 May 93 p 6

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that one of the tasks of the Israeli military committee, if it is formed, will be to draw up a mechanism for organizing the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, since this mechanism cannot ignore the Israeli occupation which is at the heart of the Lebanese-Israeli peace talks along with other issues. [passage omitted]

Minister Dallul said: As far as Lebanon is concerned, it is neither reasonable nor fair to overlook the occupation of our territories and move to discuss other issues including the so-called security arrangements and whatever Israel believes to be necessary for the negotiations to continue to the end of the road.

He then asked: What are these security arrangements for? For any operations that might be mounted against Israel in the future? We cannot talk about this either while the occupation continues or after it ends. Following an Israeli withdrawal, we are ready to guarantee security, and no one can do so before the occupation ends. Each people has the right to confront the occupation in any way they want because it is their duty to liberate their territories. We are aware of the "lie" coming from Israel that it is in south Lebanon for security reasons. This lie should not deceive anyone. There is insecurity in the south because of the Israeli occupation itself and when this occupation ends then the situation will stabilize and the Lebanese Army will be deployed in all the territories, the south, and western al-Biqa'.

He stressed that there will be no weapons other than those of the legitimate authority, and that no party will carry out operations from Lebanese territories, adding that Lebanon is ready to pledge this but only after the end of the Israeli occupation. He said: There will be no militias in the south. We will disarm them as we did the other militias in the liberated areas. We have dissolved all the military organizations and will do the same in the south when the occupation ends. This is a political and military decision that has been made and is known to everyone. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese defense minister stressed the extreme importance of the success of the peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. He said that the failure of the negotiations will be a big catastrophe that will affect everybody inside and outside the region, and the interests of some Arab countries will collapse if the Security Council resolutions are not implemented. He added: A failure will encourage the rejectionists and confirm their expectations. An unprecedented wave of violence will sweep the region, and everyone will become convinced that the international community is definitely biased against Arabs and Muslims because it will be seen to hold double standards and reward Israel that is rebelling against it and rejects peace.

On Iran and its plans in the region, the Lebanese defense minister told AL-AHRAM: We look with affection and gratitude on all those who sought to achieve peace on our land. We are suffering from the Israeli occupation today and we thank and salute anyone who helps us to end it. But when this occupation ends, we will not allow any country to exploit whatever presence it has here and hamper the peace and security process. Our people have the hope, capability, and effectiveness to achieve this.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ends Visit

NC1405163393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The Cuban deputy foreign minister left Beirut last night following a one-week visit to Lebanon. In a predeparture statement, he said: The visit was very successful. My meetings with Lebanese officials were fruitful and extremely cordial. I invited some of them to visit Cuba and they promised to do so soon.

He said Cuba will continue to support Lebanon and stand by it on international forums, particularly the

United Nations, to defend its just causes, including the liberation of south Lebanon and the implementation of Resolution 425.

Hizballah Marchers Protest Against Peace Talks

NC1705151493 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Beirut, May 17 (AFP)—Some 8,000 backers of the pro- Iranian Hizballah militia marched Monday in Beirut against negotiations with Israel and warned Lebanon not to sign a peace accord with the Jewish state.

Surrounded by a police escort, the demonstrators including Hizballah MPs [members of Parliament] marched through the al- Hamra' business district before heading to the former U.S. Embassy which was blown up in 1983 by a suicide bomber in an attack claimed by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organization.

The demonstrators, carrying pictures of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, chanted: "No to peace with Israel, yes to armed struggle" and "resistance is our only choice."

The ninth round of bilateral Middle East peace talks ended in Washington Thursday with no agreement.

The demonstration here was organized to mark the 10th anniversary of the signature of the Lebanese-Israeli security pact of May 17, 1983 engineered by Washington.

Lebanon unilaterally cancelled the agreement, condemned by Syria, less than a year after its signature.

Hizballah is the only political movement in Lebanon which has not been disarmed after 16 years of civil war.

Since 1985 it has claimed most of the anti-Israeli attacks in the border strip of south Lebanon controlled by Israel.

Hizballah Deputy Addresses Rally

NC1805070793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpt] Deputy Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid, head of the Loyalty For The Resistance parliamentary bloc, has said the 17 May agreement [with Israel in 1983] was a symbol of conspiracy and treason against the people and the nation, which the Lebanese state tried to implement legally. Addressing a massive march organized by Hizballah in Beirut yesterday afternoon to mark the infamous agreement, al-Sayyid emphasized that the will of the mujahidin and the people burned the ground beneath the colonialists and the occupiers and thwarted the agreement. He added: We are still writing the history of resistance against the enemies of humanity, page by page and one era after another, following the path of the Islamic revolution and its holy leader Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul.

The head of the Loyalty for the Resistance bloc added: Today we stand beside the mujahidin in Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Egypt, Algeria, and all the Islamic world to stress our rejection of the negotiations that seek to nullify the will of the Islamic peoples and to emphasize that there can be no peace, relations, or economic cooperation with this entity. He said a settlement with the Zionist enemy would mean encroachment upon our sovereignty, freedom, dignity, water, and every inch of our soil and would deny our children any hope for the future.

On the decision to suspend AL-SAFIR, al-Sayyid said it was a political one that had nothing to do with the judiciary or the law. It is part of the settlement process through negotiations, he added. [passage omitted]

Amal, Red Cross Agree on Examination of Bodies

NC1705173793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that it recently reached agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross, allowing the organization to examine the bodies of two Israeli soldiers held by Amal. This agreement was reached after Israel released five Lebanese female detainees.

Reportage on Battles Along Southern Border

Amal Claims Israeli Position Attacked

NC1705190693 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, May 17 (AFP)—A pro-Iranian Lebanese movement on Monday claimed it attacked an Israeli army patrol in south Lebanon while security sources reported Israeli shelling of the area.

The Faithful Resistance [Amal] said in a statement that it had detonated a bomb as the tank patrol drove near Muhaybib, in the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.

"The tank was completely destroyed and its crew members were killed or injured," said the movement, which urged "all those betting on the peace talks with Israel to give up their wrong and humiliating position."

Security sources in the region who could not confirm the attack said Israeli artillery fired 25 Merkava tank shells and 10 mortar rounds at a valley leading to the village of Muhaybib.

An Israeli Cobra helicopter overflew the region and raked it with heavy machinegun fire for half an hour on Monday afternoon, they added.

'Fierce' Israeli Shelling Reported

NC1805060593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The towns of al-Luwayzah and Mlita and the hilly outskirts of Sujud and Nab' al-Safi have been coming under fierce Israeli shelling from the Israeli position in al-Zaffatah since 0630 today, with four shells falling every minute.

Two Israeli helicopters have been raking the al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Jabal al-Rayhan, and Sujud areas with machine-gun fire since 0730.

Israeli Soldier Killed

NC1805073793 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] According to the latest reports, clashes are taking place between an Israeli force and a group of saboteurs north of the eastern sector of the border area. There are casualties, but we have no final details.

[In a related report on events in Lebanon, Paris AFP in English at 0713 GMT on 18 May adds the following: "An Israeli soldier was killed Tuesday in a bomb attack on an army patrol near the border in southern Lebanon, security sources said.

["They said the attack took place in the al-'Ayshiyah al-Rayhanah sector of Israel's self-declared 'security zone.' It was followed by heavy Israeli shelling of areas north of the zone."]

Resistance Claims 3 Israelis Killed

NC1805082893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] A statement issued by the Islamic Resistance said one of its groups confronted an enemy infantry force at 0830 today as it advanced toward (Tallat 'Uqmatah) to the east of Mlita. Fierce clashes ensued involving machine guns and rockets and three enemy soldiers were killed. Two enemy helicopters landed after the clash in the (B'ir Kallab) area to evacuate the dead and wounded. Israeli artillery shelled 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Jba', Mlita, and Jabal Safi. The resistance fired back.

Pro-Israeli Radio Says No Prisoner Swap Planned

NC1805074793 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Our military correspondent has categorically denied an AFP report that 315 Lebanese prisoners will be exchanged for the bodies of two Israeli soldiers. He said there are no such negotiations on any deal of this sort.

Hamas-Fatah Joint Operation 'Message' to PLO

NC1705124693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 93

[Suhayl Abu-Fa'ur dispatch from Marj al-Zuhur, southern Lebanon]

[Excerpts] Marking the passage of five months since they were deported from their land, and protesting the Security Council's disregard for their problem, the Palestinian deportees decided to implement some protest actions today. They include a one-day hunger strike, a sit-in inside their tents for two hours, and a march inside their camp, during which they will send messages to the concerned parties.

An occupation force of three vehicles and about 30 soldiers crossed Zummarayya entry point and deployed around the sand barrier Israel built following the deportation. [passage omitted]

Deportees spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi held a news conference to announce the actions. On reports that Washington is seeking to bring Israeli and Palestinian viewpoints closer, al- Rantisi said: Imposing a siege on the people of Palestine is a terrorist act, and so is deportation. Washington is supposed to stop this terrorism, not talk about rapprochement. The entire world must confront terrorism.

Commenting on yesterday's operation in the occupied territories, which was carried out in coordination between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah Hawks, al-Rantisi said the operation is a clear message from the honorable Fatah elements in occupied Palestine to the influential leadership of the PLO. The message says our option is not the negotiations, but the armed struggle. The operation, added al-Rantisi, also is a message to the Zionists that the attempt to break the unity of the Palestinian people and provoke a civil war is a losing game. Hamas and honorable Fatah members stand in the same trench, he said. [passage omitted]

Just before the march started, the occupation forces fired a shell that exploded midway between the deportees camp and Zummarayya crossing.

Al-Shar' Briefs People's Assembly on Talks

JN1705182093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. Several ministers attended the meeting.

At the outset of the session, the members' questions were read and referred to the competent circles through the Prime Ministry.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' briefed the People's Assembly on the latest political developments in the Arab and international arenas. Al-Shar' concentrated, in his comprehensive political statement, on the results of the ninth round of the peace talks and reviewed the peace process.

Ministers Leave for Qatar Damascus Declaration Meeting

JN1705170093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 May (SANA)—Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini left Damascus for Doha at noon today to attend the meeting of the finance ministers of the Damascus Declaration states, which will be held in Qatar tomorrow.

Dr. Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, left on the same plane to attend the meeting.

Likud Conference in Golan, 'Provocations' Viewed

JN1705081193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 17 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH says: The peace process, which has been going on for more than a year, is now faltering thanks to Israel's stands which conclusively prove that Israel does not want to see peace established and is doing its utmost to blow up the very foundations of the peace process.

The paper adds that until now and despite all the feasible, objective Arab proposals, which fundamentally rest on international resolutions, Israel has continued its maneuvers and procrastination at the negotiations. Israeli behavior on the ground, moreover, conflicts with the peace process.

Reviewing Israeli obstacles, AL-BA'TH focuses on the question of the deportees and the daily annihilation by the occupation troops of Arab citizens in the occupied territories. Let alone Israel's political positions, the latest being the convening of a Likud Party conference in a Zionist settlement on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights. This conference was preceded by a flurry of statements by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other Israeli officials, all reflecting no desire to withdraw comprehensively and fully from the occupied Syrian heights.

AL-BA'TH says that convening the Likud conference in the Golan yesterday confirms afresh that Israeli policies are the same, whether the Likud or the so-called Labor Party is in power. The two are the same.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH underlines the positions of major powers, especially the United States, which gives full support for Israel, strengthening its unlimited defiance of the international community and UN resolutions, as well as its adherence to occupation.

Commenting on Israeli provocations in the occupied Golan to blow up the peace process, TISHRIN says: Israel frequently carries out deliberate provocations against our people in the Golan. These provocations have many implicit and explicit dangers, whether they are carried out by Israeli organizations and parties, the Rabin government, or settlers and Zionist extremist religious groups.

TISHRIN notes the general conference opened by the Likud bloc yesterday in the occupied Golan, in the presence of the president of the Israeli entity.

Israel knows well that the Golan is Syrian Arab territory, that its occupation is illegitimate, and that this occupation will eventually be removed. Israel also knows that our kinsmen, all Arabs, and the entire world have not recognized Israel's annexation of the Golan. In addition, our occupied Syrian Arab territory will return to the motherland and will never give up its Syrian Arab identity. All Israeli illusions with regard to the Golan or other Arab territories are mere illusions. The Israeli rulers, parties, and organizations will only reap disappointment and failure, and will find that their provocations are to no avail.

TISHRIN adds: The Likud, as a political Israeli bloc, remained in power until the Madrid conference and was then forced to cover up its aims and schemes behind the participation in the peace process. Now, however, it decided to convene its conference in the Golan in a blatant manner. This is a serious precedent, which can be explained only by saying that the Likud has a grudge against anything that could pave the way for a just, comprehensive peace. The Likud also has a constant aggressive policy against the resolutions of international legitimacy and the will of the international community. It is trying, furthermore, to dictate its conditions by clinging to the Golan and mobilizing the settlers, engaging them in a hysterical war against the foundations of a just, comprehensive peace. It is as if the Likud is expressing what Rabin and the Labor Party have failed to announce publicly—their rejection of peace and keeping the occupied Arab territories. Otherwise, how can we explain the Rabin government's repeated claims about peace, without linking this to a practical stand on the ground that responds to the principle of withdrawal

and the return of the occupied territory to its Arab owners in exchange for peace.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Whatever the provocations and statements of the Israeli officials, everybody knows that the Golan will remain Syrian Arab territory. Peace will not be achieved unless there is a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and south Lebanon.

Israeli Statements on 9th Round Criticized

JN1605173193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After bringing the ninth round of talks to an impasse, Israeli officials are deliberately making statements that give an impression of their false concern about peace and insidious efforts to achieve such peace. One time, they promote the concept that the talks did not fail and that they achieved some progress. another time, they express distress and bitterness because the ninth round did not achieve any noteworthy progress. Yet, a third time, they talk about the need to upgrade the level of the talks. And a fourth time, they ask the United State to intervene. And so on.

These clearly contradictory statements are an unsuccessful attempt on the Israelis' part to justify their intransigent stand before world opinion. It is the stand which led to no progress in the peace talks from the beginning of the Madrid conference to the end of the ninth round. They do not want to appear to the world as the party which is obstructing the peace process even though the entire world realizes that after one and a half years the Israelis are entrenched behind their ready-made stands and old policies that do not come close to and are not in line with the concept of peace. With such stands, the Israelis aborted all efforts to render the peace talks a success and ignored all the sincere Arab initiatives to achieve this goal.

Perhaps the demand to upgrade the level of the talks, which is not a new proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, or urging the U.S. Administration to intervene strongly using pressures are nothing more than acts of prevarication and equivocation. These booby-trapped Israeli ideas are aimed at ending the negotiating process and bringing the region back to what it was before the Madrid conference. Upgrading the level of the negotiations is out of the question. Syria and the Arabs emphasized this more than once. If the Israelis wanted the talks to achieve progress, they could have done so through their current delegations and by a frank announcement of their serious commitment to the terms of reference of the peace process represented by relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

As for the demand for U.S. intervention, particularly with Syria, then such intervention has no practical meaning. Syria has offered a lot and its document, which was welcomed by countries throughout the world, including the United States, proves its desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. This totally reverses the picture. If the United States must intervene strongly, using pressures, then it should do so with the party that is still refusing to implement UN resolutions. Here, it is not enough to talk about Israel's compliance with these resolutions, if there is no action on the ground to implement these resolutions.

Moreover, Rabin is now talking about Israeli proposals, which he said are practical and based on a preparedness to achieve a compromise solution in the region and on Israel's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. What is that compromise solution being promoted by Israel nowadays? Does the compromise solution, according to Rabin himself, mean a withdrawal within the Golan and not from the Golan?

Rabin wants to emphasize that during the peace talks, he will not go beyond a partial withdrawal from the Golan in return for everything even though he already realizes the impossibility of achieving this.

Syria repeatedly emphasized that it will not relinquish an inch of its national soil under any circumstances and announced that full peace requires full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and on all fronts. It is natural to say that there is no peace without withdrawal and without recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights that are approved by the international community.

From this premise, Israel's talk about a partial withdrawal in exchange for peace can only mean that Israel wants to obstruct the peace process and does not want the peace talks to achieve their objective. This fact has become internationally well known and we do not think that the cosponsors of the peace process are unaware of it. This holds these cosponsors and the international community responsible for removing obstacles from the road to peace before Israel once and for all wastes the historical peace opportunity provided by the Arabs.

U.S. Urged To Break 'Stalemate' in Peace Process

JN1805094293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "The Peace Process and Breaking the Stalemate," AL-BA'TH says: After the ninth round of the Washington talks ended without any results, Israel, as usual, has pretended to cry over peace, and, using exposed methods, has tried to remove the ball from its court by demanding U.S. intervention to break the stalemate in the peace process tracks, particularly the Syrian track.

AL-BA'TH adds: This ironic request is only one of numerous losing cards submitted by the Israeli negotiator throughout the rounds of peace talks. These were losing cards because their form and content conflict with the bases of the peace process. The Israeli side apparently enjoyed the continuous play with its losing cards, and even held the Arab parties responsible for the stalemate. Furthermore, the Israeli negotiator does not want to discuss Israel's practices in the occupied territories, its terrorist crimes, its repeated proposals for partial withdrawal and its circumvention of the essence of the peace process. The Israeli negotiator even wants the U.S. Administration to intervene in his favor in order to break the stalemate in the peace talks.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Arab parties, which continue to announce their open commitment to the essence of the peace process, also want U.S. intervention in order to break this stalemate. These parties are convinced that the Clinton administration, which pledged to promote the peace process by playing a full partner role, knows well with which party it should intercede. We believe that it will intercede only with the party that obstructs the peace process.

Under the headline: "The Peace Process Is Hanging in the Balance," TISHRIN says: Now that the ninth round of Washington talks has ended, a firm reality is once again confirmed: Israel will not end its aggressive behavior willingly, nor will it willingly abandon its expansionist ambitions for Arab territory and resources. Events have shown that the slogan of peace and change raised by the Rabin government was actually a maneuver to deceive world public opinion and evade the impasse which the peace process has created for Israel.

TISHRIN adds: Rabin, who waged a real war against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories, threatens and attacks Lebanon, and openly declares that he rejects the principles of total withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He also makes painstaking efforts to fragment Arab ranks, weaken the Arab nation, and dominate Arab resources. In brief, the Washington negotiations have clearly shown that Israel will not change its strategy despite the change in government.

TISHRIN continues: No one on earth now believes that the Arabs do not want peace, as was publicized by Israel. It should also be stressed that the peace negotiations have enabled the Arabs to unify their views regarding the conflict with Israel. In the past, their views were contradictory. There is absolutely no hope that Israel will change its aggressive nature, it is a delusion therefore to wager on this possibility. This is because the Rabin government will only abandon its expansionist, aggressive policy if several factors are available, primarily, an increase in the current changes in the U.S. stand and in the world's view of the regional conflict. Other factors include the consolidation of solidarity and coordination among the Arabs, and a cohesive Arab stand toward Israel.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The political battle which the Arabs are waging is more difficult and complicated than wars. If the Arab militant cohesion is further enhanced, there will be greater opportunities for the Arabs to win this decisive battle, and there will also be an opportunity to regain the occupied territories and secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Afghanistan

Accord Reached; Rabbani To Take Defense Portfolio

LD1705210993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Reports received from Jalalabad, the venue of the talks between the Afghan leaders and representatives of the jihad groups, indicate that a new agreement has been reached to restore peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan.

According to a report sent by Hamzehlu, our correspondent in Afghanistan, the leaders and representatives of the jihad groups, after 17 days of talks and negotiations, agreed that President Rabbani should for a period of two months take charge of the post of the Defense Ministry while maintaining his post as president of Afghanistan; and Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister of Afghanistan, should also take charge of the Interior Ministry for a period of two months while keeping his post as prime minister.

Jihad Groups Leave Jalalabad; TV Station off Air

LD1705211593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-Qadir, governor general of Nangarhar Province in Afghanistan, announced in Jalalabad that the Afghan leaders and the representative of the jihad groups will leave Jalalabad after reaching agreement to restore peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan.

On the basis of a report received from our correspondent dispatched to Afghanistan, Kabul television was off the air on Monday night. An official of Kabul radio and television told our dispatched correspondent that Kabul television was off the air due to a technical fault.

Bangladesh

PRC Air Force Commander Arrives 17 May

BK1705153993 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Zheng Li, commander of the People's Liberation Army of China's Air Force, arrived in Dhaka today. He was received at the airport by the Bangladesh Air Force chief, Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, and other senior officials. The Chinese Air Force commander also called on the army chief, Lieutenant General Mohammed Nuruddin Khan, and the naval chief, Rear Admiral Mohammed Mohaimenul Islam. He also visited the monument of immortal soldiers in Dhaka. Mr. Zhang Xujiang, the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, was also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, a five-member Bangladesh friendship delegation led by Advocate Lutfe Alam left Dhaka for China today at the invitation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Society. They will visit Beijing, Shanghai, and other cities.

UN Official: Burma Holds Key to Refugee Crisis

BK1505070093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Dhaka, May 15 (AFP)—The U.N. refugee commissioner has made it clear that Burma holds the key to ending the Burmese Muslim refugee crisis, which analysts here said Saturday could turn into a drawn-out problem for Bangladesh.

"An international presence in Myanmar (Burma) is the key to repatriation" and there is a need for a congenial atmosphere to ensure their "safe and voluntary" return, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, said Friday after visiting refugee camps.

She indicated that her organisation would pressure Burma to allow the UNHCR to monitor repatriation process from both sides of the border.

"I am optimistic that with the help and cooperation of all parties we can facilitate rapid repatriation" of the refugees in safety and dignity in line with Bangladesh-Burma agreement, she said at a refugee seminar here Saturday.

"I think it is a long drawn problem, and (there is) not much to anticipate about positive developments in the short term," said Iftekhar Zaman of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), the government's foreign policy think tank.

Commenting on Ogata's statement, he said that unless countries with close links to Rangoon, such as China and Thailand, took definite steps to convince the Burmese military junta to end human rights violations there, the crisis would be a drawn-out one.

However, Zaman added: "There is one positive side to Ogata's visit as it seems differences between the UNHCR and Bangladesh have narrowed, and the focus is on Burma now."

The UNHCR and Washington had accused Bangladesh last year of "coerced repatriation," which Dhaka denied.

Ogata leaves here Saturday for Bangkok, after ending a four-day official visit to Bangladesh with talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and a press conference.

The high commissioner visited some of the 20 camps housing the remaining 260,000 Burmese refugees, called Rohingyas, who have fled military persecution at home since 1991. She was told by some that they would return home only after their safety was guaranteed.

Some 24,000 Rohingyas have been repatriated "voluntarily" since September under a 1992 Bangladesh-Burma bilateral agreement.

One analyst said Ogata's visit had put Bangladesh in the difficult position of bearing an indefinite burden until the UNHCR was satisfied about the safety of the returning Rohingyas.

Azher Zafar Shah, professor of International Relations in the Dhaka University, said the issue should be handled "rationally and logically as well as in a humanitarian context."

"I agree with Ogata, as conditions in Burma under a military regime are inhuman," he said, adding that Rangoon has to change its stand on human rights issues.

Diplomatic sources said Japan too could play a role to end the crisis as some of Rangoon's top generals were trained there, and one added: "There seems to be a soft corner in Tokyo for their Burmese friends."

Zaman said Dhaka should continue bilateral negotiations with Rangoon and make "loud noises" in international forums to create pressure, instead of antagonising her.

Zia: Dhaka Cannot Help Refugees Forever

BK1505113593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Dhaka, May 15 (AFP)—Bangladesh cannot afford to look after hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees from Burma indefinitely, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia told the visiting UNHCR chief here Saturday.

"We have done our best for the Rohingya refugees ... to reduce their miseries, (but) it is difficult on the part of Bangladesh with its resource constraints to shoulder the burden of so many refugees for an indefinite period," Zia told the United Nations High Commmissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata.

Zia said the situation in Burma had "improved a lot since last year" and the Rangoon government had told Dhaka it was ready to receive the refugees, called Rohingyas.

Some 24,000 who have returned home since September last year under a bilateral agreement had not come back, she said, adding that Bangladesh's aid to the refugees on humanitarian grounds should be appreciated.

Ogata responded by praising Dhaka's efforts at looking after the refugees and was quoted by the official BSS news agency as saying that she found the refugees "happy and in good condition. Better than many refugees in other parts of the world."

Some 280,000 Rohingyas fled military persecution at home two years ago. Rangoon denies the presecution charges.

Earlier Saturday, Ogata told a two-day refugee seminar in Dhaka that the UNHCR was stressing the prevention of refugee problems as part of a three-pronged strategy to try to decrease large scale refugee movements.

The other two prongs of the strategy are "preparedness" and "solution", Ogata said.

"By prevention I do not mean putting barriers to stop people moving but rather tackling the underlying political, economic and social causes which force people to move," she added.

She said that when the UNHCR office was established in 1951 to provide international protection to refugees, the world refugee population was just one million. It now exceeds 18 million.

On Friday, Ogata visited the camps in southeastern Bangladesh where some 260,000 refugees await repatriation.

She termed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the UNHCR and Bangladesh as a "testament" of joint resolve to cooperate closely on the Rohingya issue.

Before leaving Dhaka for Bangkok on Saturday at the end of a four-day official visit, Ogata told a press conference that the UNHCR would give a three million dollar aid package to the people of southeastern Bangladesh frontier villages affected by the influx of the refugees.

The package involves 80 small projects for the improvement and renovation of local schools, markets, hospitals and bridges, she said.

Ogata said the refuggees who were returning home did so "spontaneously at their will."

Questioned on earlier UNHCR charges that the Bangladesh government "coerced" the refugees into returning she said "we were not involved, so we can't say whether it was voluntary or not.

"We just don't know how they are living on the other side (Burma) as we simply can not ascertain that."

Ogata called the current visit of a U.N. technical team to Burma a "positive indication" of an early start to repatriating the remaining refugees.

"I am hopeful it will start," she said, but pointed out that repatriation was a complex task and could take a long time to complete.

UNHCR, Khaleda Zia Meet, Discuss Refugees

BK1505142793 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed confidence that the memorandum of understanding signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

[UNHCR] will facilitate the rapid and voluntary return of Rohingya refugees to their homes in Burma. He was addressing a seminar on world refugee issue in Dhaka today. Noting the enormous dimensions of the world refugee problem, the president said the problem has gradually become grave. Referring to the presence of a large number of refugees in the country, President Biswas said the government took extensive steps for the repatriation of the refugees including the signing of the agreement with the Burmese Government last year. The president said the success achieved during the recent official- level meeting between Bangladesh and Burma and the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the UNHCR on 12 May are expected to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees to their homes. The inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by UNHCR, Dr. Sadako Ogata, and Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman.

Dr. Sadako Ogata, the UNHCR chief, currently visiting the country, praised Bangladesh's efforts to deal with the massive Rohingya refugee problem during a meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Dhaka today. Dr. Ogata said the United Nations will help in the repatriation of Rohingya refugees. The prime minister thanked Dr. Ogata for visiting Bangladesh and said we have provided refuge and other facilities to Rohingya refugees in order to ease their difficulties according to our means.

Earlier, addressing a news conference in Dhaka today, the UNHCR expressed the hope that her organization will ensure the rapid return of the Rohingya refugees with the cooperation of all concerned. Mrs. Ogata said the presence of the United Nations in Burma will boost the confidence of returning Rohingya refugees. She said a UN technical mission is currently in Burma along with the UNHCR. They held talks with Burmese authorities about their role in the repatriation process.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Kuwait, UAE

BK1605150693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka this morning for an official visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. He will discuss bilateral matters with the leaders of these countries. International issues of common concern will also come up for discussion during the talks.

India

Further Reportage on Visit of Israeli Delegation

Cooperation in Agriculture, Industry

BK1705131093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Israel has offered cooperation with India in the fields of agriculture and industry, including checking desertification and water management. Addressing a meeting in New Delhi today, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Israel, Mr. Shim'on Peres, said private companies of both the countries can set up joint ventures and explore possibilities in the field of technology transfer and collaboration. The Israeli foreign minister stressed on collaboration between private companies as government-to- government cooperation alone may not bring out the desired results. He said Tel Aviv sees tremendous opportunities for cooperation with India with the prevailing growth-oriented atmosphere following the recent liberalization, deregulation and economic reforms. Mr. Shim'on Peres said that with the adoption of dry land farming, [and] the right kind of water management, desertification can be checked to a great extent in India. Mr. Shim'on Peres who arrived in the capital this morning on a three-day official visit is accompanied by a delegation of businessmen and industrialists.

Spokesman on Talks

BK1705164093 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1501 GMT 17 May 93

[Official spokesmen's statement on meeting between visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Mr. Shim'on Peres and External Affairs Minister Mr. Dinesh Singh]

[Text] Our external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, met Mr. Shim'on Peres on May 17 in morning. Our foreign secretary and ambassador of Israel were present. Mr. Dinesh Singh welcomed Mr. Peres, whose visit was first official visit by an Israeli foreign minister to India, and wished him a successful stay in India.

While discussing strengthening of bilateral relations, Mr. Peres expressed importance given by Israel to develop close ties with India.

Two ministers also discussed dangers posed by extremism to two countries. Mr. Peres also gave an assessment on progress of Middle East peace process.

Trade Agreement Signed

BK1705164293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] India and Israel today discussed in detail the dangers posed by extremism and fundamentalism in the two countries and the world at large. The matter came up for discussion at the meeting between the Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, and the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the minister of state, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, in New Delhi. Mr. Peres gave his assessment of the progress made in the West Asia peace talks. The two sides discussed the strengthening of bilateral relations, and Mr. Peres expressed his country's desire to develop close ties with India.

Cooperation between the two countries in the areas of agriculture and science and technology figured prominently when Mr. Bhatia called on Mr. Peres earlier. The Israeli foreign minister emphasized the need for greater cultural contacts between India and Israel.

Briefing newsmen, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Mr. Peres also had meetings with the ministers of agriculture and finance. Replying to questions, he said there was no discussion on any defense pact.

In the evening, the two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] to promote trade, economic and technological cooperation. The minister of state for commerce and civil supplies, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, and Mr. Peres signed the MOU. At the meeting with the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Mr. Shim'on Peres suggested setting up of a joint fund with India for research and development. He offered Israeli assistance in rural development, particularly in desert farming in Rajasthan.

Earlier, addressing a meeting organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries, the Israeli foreign minister offered his country's cooperation in agriculture and industry including checking of desertification and water management. He said private companies of both countries could take up joint ventures and consider technology transfers and turnkey projects.

Resumption of West Asia Talks Welcomed

BK1805041493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] India has welcomed the resumption of West Asia peace talks and urged Israel to create necessary conditions to resolve the issue. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Israeli deputy prime minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, in New Delhi last night, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, said the peace process offers a unique opportunity to the people of the area to reach an amicable settlement. He expressed hope the talks would take into account the rights, national interest, and aspirations of all the parties concerned.

Referring to the bilateral relations, Mr. Bhatia said Israel, like India, has followed a policy of self-reliance and development and the two countries have achieved significant progress in several fields. He pointed out there is a tremendous scope for meaningful cooperation between the two countries.

Cultural Agreement Signed

BK1805095893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] India and Israel have signed a cultural agreement. It was signed in New Delhi today by the visiting Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, and the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh. The agreement covers the fields of art, culture, education, sports, journalism, radio, television and cinema.

In an exclusive interview with AIR [All India Radio], Mr. Shim'on Peres described the agreement as historic and expressed the hope that this would promote cooperation between the two countries in the fields of art and culture. The agreement envisages exchange of exhibitions, contacts between national museums, national libraries, national archives and performing artists. It also provides exchange of visits of scholars in the field of education.

The visiting Isreali deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi today. Welcoming Mr. Peres, the president said the Jews were one of the first migrants to India and their century- old settlements can be seen even today in cities like Cochin and Bombay. The Israeli foreign minister said a renewed chapter of friendship has opened between his country and India. He said New Delhi has always enjoyed highest regard in Israel.

Peres Holds Meetings, Signs Agreements

TA1805101693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 May 93 p A5

["Exclusive" report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Zohar Blumenkrantz, and Avital Mosinson]

[Excerpts] New Delhi—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres started his visit to India yesterday under heavy guard and Indian media reports of a real revolution in relations between the two countries. Peres met yesterday with the Indian minister of foreign affairs; the minister of state for external affairs; the ministers of finance, agriculture, and commerce; the parliament speaker and members of the parliamentary committee on external affairs; media figures; and businessmen. [passage omitted]

Political, economic, and defense interests common to both countries were broached in all of Peres' meetings, with the emphasis on cooperation in the use of water resources, solar energy, the development of arid regions, biogenetics, farming technologies, software, and so on. Six prearranged agreements were signed during the visit, and additional agreements are to be signed soon.

In a meeting with reporters, Peres refused to rule out the possibility of Indian-Israeli defense cooperation, but noted that this issue is not on the agenda for this visit.

The foreign minister was very satisfied with the warm treatment he received in his official meetings. The goodwill reached its peak in an address he gave to several hundred industrialists and businessmen who flew from all across the subcontinent to meet with him. Among the businessmen were representatives of the Tariviani Group, the largest Indian economic conglomerate. In the meeting, the Indian economists expressed their belief that restrictions imposed on trade relations in the past will be replaced by totally open ties. Peres told the businessmen that "peace in the Middle East is inevitable, and the door to Indian- Israeli cooperation is open."

Dani Gillerman, president of Israel's Union of Chambers of Commerce, who, together with other Israeli

economic figures, is accompanying the minister on his visit to India, said he believes that economic cooperation between India and Israel in trade and other projects has the potential of reaching $1 billion in three years.

In a meeting of businessmen of both countries, it was agreed that India's top economic officials will pay a reciprocal visit to Israel in the fall. Peres and the Indian commerce minister signed a general economic memorandum of understanding. The document stresses plans to cooperate on solar energy and the development of arid regions.

Peres also signed agreements on holding consultations between the two Foreign Ministries and on scientific and technological cooperation. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister and Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh signed an economic protocol which paves the road for mutual investments and the prevention of double taxation. Sources familiar with Peres' talks with his Indian counterpart, Raghunandan L. Bhatia, said that Israel asked for India's help in improving its relations with countries affiliated with New Delhi. One of the sources said that "Israel referred to countries like Bhutan, Indonesia, and Malaysia, among others." [passage omitted]

Minister Peres leaves India tomorrow and is expected to land in Bangkok, where he will meet with Thai leaders, on his way to a three-day visit to China.

Israeli Firm To Promote Electronics Exports

BK1505163893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP)—An Israeli consultancy firm has launched a joint venture to promote and boost technology in India's vast electronics industry, officials said here Saturday.

The tie-up with Indian consultancy firm Technova is the Israel Export Institute's (IEI) first foreign collaboration outside Israel.

The officials said IEI and its local partner hoped to cooperate in areas including computer software, healthcare, automobile spares, machinery, bio-technology and agriculture.

"This collaboration will benefit many companies in India who are looking seriously at electronics exports," said Abhay Yohraj, Technova's chief executive.

Saturday's unveiling of the joint venture came two days before a two-day trip to India by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The visit will be the first by a senior Israeli official since diplomatic links between Delhi and Tel Aviv were re-established in January 1992 after a forty-year hiatus.

Pakistani Invitation To Trace Bomb Suspects 'Futile'

BK1705164493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] India has rejected the Pakistani invitation to the home secretary to visit Islamabad in connection with the probe of Bombay explosions, saying it will be a futile exercise. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told a news conference in New Delhi that sufficient evidence about the landing of the Memon brothers in Karachi has been communicated to the Pakistani Government. He said it is for Islamabad to trace them out or tell us whether they have left for any particular place. He said the Pakistani Government cannot expect the Indian home secretary to trace the suspects on its soil. The cabinet secretary as also the foreign secretary and home secretary were present at the news conference.

The foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, termed Pakistani response to Memon brothers affair as vacillating. He said while admitting that they had arrived in Karachi, the Pakistani Government claims no knowledge of their whereabouts. He said the Pakistani note on the subject given two days ago conveys nothing about its inquiries.

Responding to queries, the cabinet secretary, Mr. Raj Gopal, said interrogation of suspects in Bombay and other evidence clearly indicate Pakistan's involvement in the blasts. He said apparently the Memon brothers were whisked away from Karachi airport with the possible assistance of the Pakistani authorities or some of its agencies. He said evidence now indicates that one of the Memon brothers had sent 20 persons from Bombay for training in Pakistan in the first week of January. The foreign secretary said reasonable presumption now is that the Memon brothers are still in Pakistan. He said this is not apprehension but is based on circumstantial evidence. Mr. Dixit said there is effective coordination between the Foreign Ministry, the Home Ministry and the Bombay police in the investigation of the Memon brothers episode.

The home minister released a report of the high-level inquiry into the deaths of two Pakistanis in an encounter in Punjab in October. A wanted terrorist, Talwinder Singh Parmar, was also killed in the same encounter. Pakistan had kept up a big row at that time saying that two of its innocent citizens were killed in cold-blooded murder. The inquiry by the special secretary of home has revealed that contrary to the Pakistani claims, one of the persons killed was an Indian citizen travelling on a Pakistani passport. The second one was a Pakistani national and had close links with the Pakistani ISI [Inter Services Intelligence]. Based on both direct and circumstantial evidence, the inquiry established Pakistan's sinister motives in the whole matter and said they were infiltrated into India with a cover identity backed by Pakistani Government documents. This, the report said, clearly shows the involvement of Pakistan in aiding and abetting terrorism in this country.

Pakistan: Bombay Blast Suspects Landed in Karachi

BK1505034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has conceded that six persons of the Memon family listed in the flight manifesto of the Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] from Dubayy to Karachi on the 17th of March had landed in Karachi on the same day. Pakistan's foreign secretary told the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad that the suspects might have managed to leave Karachi before the Indian government took up the case with Pakistan on the 23d of March. A spokesman of the Indian High Commission told our Islamabad correspondent that the six suspects had not been issued any visas by the Pakistani authorities and were therefore on transit passage. Our correspondent reports that Indians who are on transit normally have to surrender their passports to the Pakistani authorities and are not allowed to leave the immigration zone. This was not apparently done in the case of the six suspects listed in the PIA flight on 17th of March.

Commentary Views Belarus Prime Minister's Visit

BK1505123593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 May 93

[Commentary by P.C. Kapur, Special Correspondent of THE ASIA INTERNATIONAL]

[Text] The visit of his excellency, V.F. Kebich, the prime minister of the Council of Ministers of the Republic Belarus, and Ms. Elena Kebich to India is a significant event. It is a milestone in the contact between the republics of India and Belarus. We have all heard of Belorussia, which was the founder member of the United Nations. A number of citizens of that country, which is now Republic of Belarus, have lived and worked in India as diplomats, engineers, scientists, interpreters and the like. The two of the most prominent persons amongst them were Mr. Georgiy Primavisky, the painter who lived in Shantiniketan and Professor O.B. Ruman of the Institute of Power Metullurgy, Minsk, who taught at IIT [Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. They both have been honored with Nehru award. There are hundreds of other of this land of 10 million people who have either lived in India or have dealt with India within the framework of the former Soviet Union. Therefore, now when we are setting out to build our relations with this new republic, we find that we have a reservoir of friends and goodwill to draw upon. There are possibilities of trade which need to be seriously explored.

During his stay here, India and Belarus signed seven agreements for cooperation in various fields, including trade and economic cooperation, tourism, science and technology, and defense. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Belarus Prime Minister V.F. Kebich signed a declaration on principles and directions of cooperation between their countries at a ceremony in New Delhi. Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Belarusian State Committee for Economic Relations Chairman V. Radkevich signed the agreement on trade and economic cooperation in the presence of the two prime ministers. The agreement on tourism was signed by Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mr. Radkevich. The memorandum of understanding on defense-related technical cooperation between the two countries was signed by Defense Secretary K.A. Nambiar and Belarusian (Tashenskien) [as heard]. The two sides also signed three other agreements on science and technology, visa- free travel of government officials, and cooperation in culture, arts, education, mass media and sports. Earlier, his delegation also proposed three specific areas for cooperation namely, joint venture in the food processing area in Belarus, pharmaceuticals manufactured in Belarus, and defense cooperation.

It may be recalled that after the end of World War-II, Belarus was the founder member of the UN along with the Soviet Union and Ukraine, Byelorussia, as it was called then, was a bloody battlefield during World War-II and the Nazi forces were halted by the resolute Belarusians. Death and devastation was immense and the countryside was reduced to shambles. Yet, people of Belarus rose as one at the time of adversity and again took up the challenge in joining hands with other nations in establishing the UN. Though they were part of the USSR as the Byelorussian Soviet Socialistic Republic, that did not deter them in joining for a common cause. The United Nations too, honored the people of Belarus as a token of their service in defeating the fascism in World War-II to represent at the United Nations. But this honor was rather relative since they were now part of the USSR and did not have independent voice or the voting right.

Third Party Mediation on Kashmir Stressed

BK1705144593 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 May 93 p 13

[By S.S. Gill]

[Text] The burning of Sopore and Lal Chowk, open revolt by the State police force, the resolution by the Organisation of Islamic Countries to review their economic aod trade relations with India, subtle shift in the American stand wanting the Kashmiris to have a say in deciding the future of their State: Never before did India find herself in a tighter spot on the J & K [Jammu and Kashmir] issue! And ironically this avalanche of troubles has engulfed the country when the curbing of terrorism in Punjab had raised hopes of a similar development in the Kashmir Valley. But this was a faulty assumption and the point needs to be made forcefully that the differences between the situations in these two States are far more significant than their similarities.

Right from the day of its accession J & K has lived under the shadow of strong military presence. The Kashmiris

feel that the Valley is being held down by an army of occupation. This naturally turns our security forces into a hate object and promotes a feeling of alienation towards India. On the other hand, the Indian army always received a most hearty welcome during its passage through Punjab at the time of Indo-Pak conflicts.

But the trajectory of terrorist movements in both Punjab and Kashmir is quite similar. Punjab has passed through three phases of militant activity. Terrorism in this State rose as a reaction to some perceived injustices done to the Sikhs, and its phase one was marked by a high degree of idealism, puritanical zeal and spirit of sacrifice. Tbe movement immediately struck a sympathetic cord among the Sikhs, and the young boys dying in the Panthic cause were cloaked in the mantle of heroes and martyrs. During this period the militants led a life of great hardship and the community was much impressed by their honesty of purpose.

Phase two started when all sorts of criminal elements started joining the ranks of the militants. They were mostly fugitives from law and the garb of extremists won them instant sympathy and support of the village folk. Quite a few of them formed independent gangs of their own and freely indulged in robberies, abductions, rapes, etc. This sullied the image of the militants and their support base started shrinking.

In the third phase the extremists hounded from pillar to post and worn out by hardships of a precarious existence, succumbed to the temptations of the flesh and lost much of their crusading zeal. They resorted to loot, extortion and kidnapping, and started leading a life of luxury and debauchery. As the militants got increasingly discredited, the ready hospitality of the villagers dried up, and now they had to seek at gun-point what earlier they got with open arms. Without belittling the role of the State police, it needs to be emphasised that the terrorist movement in Punjab actually collapsed from within as its moral base got corroded by corruption.

And how is the terrorist scenario unfolding in the Kashmir Valley? It has certain obvious parallels with Punjab, and that is where the best opportunity for an imaginative initiative lies. Here again the first phase was marked by idealism, sacrifice and heroism. As the extent of alienation in Kashmir was much greater, the popular support for the militants was much wider. But they were far more dependent on the Pakistani support, and Pakistan was keen to use them to serve her own designs. This led to the split of the militant movement. There was also large-scale infiltration by drug- peddlers and gun-runners from across the border. Ills attendant upon the collapse of the civil authority have surfaced in a big way, and extortion, brigandage, abductions, etc. are on the rise. This marks the second phase of the trajectory of terrorism in the State.

The third phase is also following close on its heels, but for slightly different reasons. The economy of Kashmir is much more fragile than that of Punjab. Tourism, the main source of livelihood of lakhs of Kashmiris, has completely vanished. Even the ardent supporters of the militants feel dispirited as they realise that Pakistan is not going to back its promises by military action, and that the Indian State is no pushover. Consequently the support base of the extremists is weakening as the people have got sick and tired of militancy; years of the deprivation had sapped their stamina, and they see no light at the end of the tunnel of terrorism.

So, where do we go from here? At this point the parallel with Punjab comes to an end. The objective conditions in the Valley do not exist for holding assembly elections. Nor, unlike Punjab, is it possible to restore near normalcy without offering a political package.

For any breakthrough to be made on the J & K front two preconditions must be met. First, a well-conceived initiative should be launched by the civil administration to convert itself into a vast grievance redressal machinery. Here, for once, the Governor should take over an activist role, tour the State intensively, meet thousands of people, and provide on the spot relief to the aggrieved. He should have a natural talent for public relations and a gift of empathy to share the people's pain, to commiserate in their grief and to establish an instant rapport with them. Further, it will have to be ensured that the security forces do not become a law unto themselves and frustrate carefully planned initiatives of the Centre. Outrages like Sopore and Lal Chowk must not happen again. The common man in the Valley is deeply hurt and distrustful. He is convinced that India does not really care for him. This impression must be dispelled by not only adopting a very humane and understanding approach, but persisting with it despite repeated setbacks.

Secondly, J & K must have an elected government if the situation is to normalise. But, unlike Punjab, here this will have to follow and not precede a package of liberal political reforms. And unless this package contains a large measure of autonomy for the State, no credible political outfit will ever agree even to enter the electoral area. It is also obvious that a government elected on the basis of a fair poll will be quite hostile to the Centre and make all sorts of noises for secession and 'independence'. But the very act of India having conducted impartial elections will produce a salutary effect. Moreover, the lure of office, love of power and the compulsions of carrying the burden of administration would induce a greater sense of realism. The economy of J & K, at least in the short run, cannot stand on its own feet, and the State will have to seek the assistance and protection of the Indian government if it is not to slip into anarchy.

The Indian stand on J & K, we must accept, is becoming increasingly untenable. In the present day world we cannot completely insulate ourselves from the pressures of world opinion. We have got into the unfortunate habit of abridging our options by striking unnecessarily rigid postures. In view of the extreme distrust between India and Pakistan, mediation by a third party need not be

spurned. And in the long run, a semi-autonomous Valley may make life easier for both India and Kashmir, and also open the doors for the normalisation of relations with Pakistan.

Rights Commission To Have Powers of Civil Court

BK1605033493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The National Human Rights Commission is to have the powers of a civil court to conduct its inquiries. A bill introduced in the Lok Sabha also seeks to confer on the Commission the power to intervene in court proceedings relating to alleged violation of human rights. Besides investigating complaints against state agencies, the Commission will look into human rights violations resulting from acts of terrorism and organized group violence.

According to an official spokesman in New Delhi, the provision has been made as organized group violence strikes at the very roots of the democratic system.

Parliament Extends TADA Two Years

BK1405161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Parliament has passed the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention [TADA] Amendment Bill 1993. The Lok Sabha passed the bill today with a voice vote while the Rajya Sabha had passed the bill on the 28th of last month. The bill seeks to extend the duration of TADA for another two years.

Replying to the debate, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the house that adequate steps are being taken to prevent the misuse of its provisions.

The opposition members criticizing the bill expressed fear that it may be used against the political workers. They also argued that it is against the fundamental rights of the citizens of the country.

Two 'Major' Space Launches Detailed

BK1705115393 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 May 93 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, May 9—The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) here has planned two major launches for the latter part of this year—that of the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) and the second generation INSAT-2B.

While the different stages of PSLV, capable of placing 1,000 kg satellites into a 900 km polar sun synchronous orbit, have all been individually tested and flight systems are being integrated for launch from the Sriharikota (Shar) launching pad during June-July. INSAT-2B, proposed to be launched during the last quarter of this year on board the Ariane Launch Vehicle, is now under integration and testing.

The satellite will be shipped to the launch site at Kourou, French Guyana.

INSAT 2-B's special component is a data relay transponder which will assist in search and rescue operations carried out by the Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force.

India is the second country next to the USA to incorporate the geostationary satellite component for search and rescue.

ISRO sources, contacted by PTI [Press Trust of India] said though the launch window for PSLV was yet to be fixed, it would be in June or July. However, with the successful completion of qualification of major systems like propulsion stages, both solid and liquid, equipment bay, rocket systems like heatshield and light alloy structures, the project was well geared for launch campaign.

The 275-tonne, 44 metre-high PSLV has four stages. The first and third stages use solid propellants, while the second and fourth stage use liquid.

In its developmental flight, PSLV will carry IRS [Indian Remote Sensing Satellite]-1E, which has a monocular electro optical stereo scanner developed by the DLR, Germany and a LISS-one camera similar to that in IRS-1A. This is expected to give a better view of the country.

Meanwhile, the monitoring station at Mauritius has been augmented with an S-band uplink with a 10 metre diameter antenna. A precision coherent monopulse C-band (PCMC) radar system has been installed to meet the telemetry, tracking and command (TTC) requirements for the PSLV.

The space electronics division of Bharat Electronics (BE), Bangalore, has supplied the PCMC and flight packages such as instrumentation amplifier and DC-DC converters.

The BE's director, commercial and management services, Dr. V.K. Koshy, said that the performance of the precision tracking radar supplied to ISRO was second to none in the world. It cost around Rs. [rupees] 16 crore. He said space experts from Brazil Space Agency, who evaluated the radar had evinced keen interest in it. "It is a real hi-tech radar for the civil market", he said.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Condemns Serb, Croat Aggression

LD1705174393 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Iran today reiterated its call for lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to enable Bosnia Muslims to defend themselves.

In a statement issued here Monday, the Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the Serbs and the Croats for their "savage" aggressions against Bosnian Muslims and for their policy of procrastination and expressed deep concern over giving further respite to the invaders.

It said if the presence of the international peacekeeping forces under the pretext of insecurity or for any other reasons should obstruct implementation of the responsibilities contained in the United Nations Charter concerning military confrontation with invaders, they should leave the republic as per the recent request of the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina [BH].

"In line with the outlooks of the senior BH officials the Islamic Republic of Iran considers all the powers, governments and international forums which have delayed the fulfilment of their responsibilities to end the war and restore peace, causing further genocide of Muslims and emboldening the aggressors, open accomplices of the Serb opportunists," the statement said.

It added that in the wake of the failure of political solutions and international procrastination "it is now becoming all too clear that there is no other way left for the international community to repel the Serbian aggression, therefore, it strongly demands the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims to enable them defend their territorial integrity and people."

Envoy Denies Military Experts Sent to Bosnia

LD1805081093 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, May 18, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the U.N., Kamal Kharrazi, has brushed aside the Belgrade government's claim on alleged dispatch of an Iranian military expert delegation to Bosnia-Herzegovina [BH]. The Belgrade government in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Feb. 22, claimed that an Iranian military delegation had visited Bosnia-Herzegovina and met with political and military officials of that country. A report filed by Serbia and Montenegro on violations of the U.N. arms embargo as well as supply of weapons by foreign countries to the belligerent parties in B-H, also includes the charge against Iran.

President Congratulates Turkey's Demirel

LD1705152093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Following Mr. Suleyman Demirel's success in winning the presidential elections in Turkey, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent a message of congratulations to him this morning. In this message, while congratulating Mr. Demirel for being elected as the president of the friendly and neighboring country, the Republic of Turkey, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that during his term of office the two countries' ties would expand and strengthen more than ever before.

Inequalities Undercutting Arab Common Market Viewed

NC1805065693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 18 May 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group from "In the Margin of the News" feature entitled: "Proposal To Form an Arab Common Market"]

[Excerpts] Speaking at a news conference in Damascus, the Syrian prime minister called on Arab countries to work to form an Arab common market. [passage omitted]

Under the circumstances and in view of international changes, regional processes have strengthened. Their impact has extended to the Arab countries. But, while the grounds for propounding an Arab common market to achieve Arab unity do exist, the interregional elements that have always weakened such processes remain.

In their midst, elements such as the unequal distribution of wealth among the Arab countries leave more negative impressions, because, while the poorer Arab countries have always supported the formation of such a market, the rich Arab countries have not, fearing that their presence in a common market along with poor countries would compel them to spend part of their wealth on plans other than their own national plans.

Syrian Ambassador Discusses Mideast Peace Talks

LD1805102793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] At a meeting this morning with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, Ahmed al-Hasan, the Syrian ambassador in Tehran, made the following comment on the talks between Arab governments and the Zionist regime: Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would never sign a proposal in which the interests of all Arab countries and the realization of the rights of Palestinians have not been included.

The Syrian ambassador pointed out: Because of Israel's insistence on her previous stances, owing to America's commitments and western propaganda, the ninth round of the Middle-East peace talks was also fruitless.

Ties between Iran and Syria and regional issues were also discussed at the meeting.

Envoy Says Qatar Favors Good Relations With Neighbors

LD1705142893 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Qatari Ambassador to Tehran 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Mahmud Monday told Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri that his government has always favoured cooperation with its neighbours, Iran in particular.

Al-Mahmud also submitted a written message to Nateq-Nuri from his Qatari counterpart.

Nateq-Nuri said the global arrogance is hatching plots to sow discord among the regional states, plunder their oil and sell its arms. He called for further unity and solidarity among the Persian Gulf littoral states to counter the plots.

The speaker said the only way to settle disputes among the regional countries is engaging in peaceful negotiations.

Nateq-Nuri invited his Qatari counterpart to pay an official visit to the Islamic Republic.

Egyptian Envoy on Desire for Improved Relations

LD1705180993 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Head of Egypt's interest section here Mahmoud Muhammad Faraj Monday voiced his country's desire to remove the obstacles on the way of improvement of relations with Iran.

Faraj made the remark in a meeting with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Faraj also outlined his country's views regarding various international issues, the situation in the Middle East, and security in the Persian Gulf. Issues of mutual interest were also discussed between the two sides.

Besharati underlined at the meeting that Iran's foreign policy was based on mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. He also expressed hope that the problems existing between Islamic governments would be settled by way of Islamic fraternity and understanding.

Velayati Reviews Visit to Spain

LD1805085493 Tehran IRNA in English 0809 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up his two-day visit to Spain Monday night and returned here Tuesday morning terming his visit as "very fruitful".

In an interview upon arrival, he said that an Spanish commercial- economic delegation comprising private and government sectors would visit Tehran shortly to discuss Spain's participation in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

Active participation of Spain in Iran's trade fairs, Madrid's support for Iran's membership at the Asian Development Bank and the visit to Madrid of head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation Hasan Shafti next month were among agreements made during Velayati's meetings with ranking Spanish officials.

While in Madrid, Velayati discussed promotion of cooperation in economic fields and international issues in separate meetings with the Spanish King Juan Carlos de Borbon, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez and Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

The Spanish king expressed content with the ever-growing trend of Tehran-Madrid ties saying that both the countries could assist each other in political, economic, cultural and commercial areas.

Velayati also submitted messages of President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani to the Spanish king and prime minister.

In an interview in Madrid before departure, he told IRNA that the two countries will enter multilateral cooperation in the region especially with Central Asian countries.

He also said he had invited Prime Minister Gonzalez to visit Tehran which he had accepted.

Meanwhile, in a press conference in Madrid Monday night, Velyati stressed Iran's readines to supply arms to the oppressed people of Bosnia under U.N. supervision.

He stressed that the people under siege in Bosnia should be given a chance to defend themselves and that creation of a safe route by the United Nations to ferry relief was essential.

What is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina is in fact genocide of Muslims by Serbs and recently by Croats, he said and deplored the U.N.'s negligence in this connection.

"We believe that the U.N. Security Council's approvals on Bosnia should be exerted through military pressure ," he stressed.

Asked about a possible change in Iran's stance vis-a-vis Salman Rushdie, the infidel author of "The Satanic Verses", he said in fact it was not the stand of the Iranian Government but that of all Islamic governments and world Muslims.

He added that the fatwa [Islamic legal ruling] issued by the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini four years ago was endorsed by the Riyadh conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and that the recent OIC conference in Karachi attended by 51 countries had condemned Salman Rushdie.

He said the Karachi confab of OIC foreign ministers had undertaken to extend dollars 240 million in aid to Bosnia and a group had been assigned to hold talks with foreign ministers of the member countries of the Security Council until the end of current month to find a remedy for the Bosnian crisis.

He brushed aside claims on Iran's support for international terrorism saying that it was a baseless charge. "We in fact are victims of terrorism. The same people who assassinated many of our ranking officials are now under the shelter of the countries who accuse us of supporting terrorism."

He reiterated that Iran had categorically condemned any kind of support for terrorism.

Asked about the Amnesty International's report on violation of human rights in Iran he said that the nature of this charge was similar to that of Iran's alleged support for terrorism. He stressed that nowadays those countries who are independent against the will of certain hegemonistic countries, are accused of human rights violations.

Reportage on Velayati Visit to Spain, Talks

WA1705151693

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minisiter Vaelayati to Spain, including reports on his talks with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, please see the Spain section of the 17 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Velayati Leaves for Tour of Gulf States 18 May

LD1805095793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who made a three-hour stop in Tehran after his trip to Spain, left for Saudi Arabia before noon today.

During his one-week tour of the six member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, he is to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional issues, as well as issues relating to the Islamic world, especially Bosnia and Palestine.

Before leaving Tehran, Velayati told our reporter that relations between Iran and the six Arab Persian Gulf countries are friendly, adding that the time has now come for ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and regional countries, especially neighbors, to expand in all fields.

He stressed that the expansion of ties with Islamic countries, especially neighbors, is one of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy priorities. He added that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and its neighbors are satisfactory.

IRNA on Israel, Failure of Peace Talks

LD1705175093 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—It was quite a coincidence that the failure of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington last week corresponded with the anniversary of the creation of the Zionist entity on Palestinian lands 45 years ago.

Like other previous eight rounds, the so-called Middle East peace talks ended with the usual exchange of acrimonious accusations between the Arab parties and Israel.

When the Zionist entity proclaimed its "independence" on occupied Palestine on May 14, 1948 it was one of the greatest injustices committed against a people in recent history.

Since then the region has been plunged into three devastating wars during which more Arab lands have been occupied.

The Palestinians under occupation continue to suffer under terror policies, human rights abuses, deportations and violent suppression. Millions of Palestinians have become refugees, thousands killed and injured.

Western powers planted the Zionist entity in the Islamic heartland to control the national wealth of the Muslims and to create instability and sow discord in the region.

The United States and Europe continue their unreserved support to the Zionist state giving immense military and economic aid. Since last November, arrangements have been made to permit Israel greater access to U.S. satellite intelligence.

The Zionist regime has used its military superiority to tighten its grip over occupied territories flouting all international laws and agreements.

The special human rights committee established by the U.N. in 1969 to monitor the occupied territories has consistently been denied access to the lands occupied by the Zionists.

Inter-Arab rivalries and Palestinian feuds have impeded the emergence of a strong united stand to liberate occupied Palestine from the Zionist yoke.

Even secular Arabs now consent that there has been no change in the policies of the Zionist state since its creation four decades ago.

"The policies of Israel and its leaders have not changed since 45 years because it stands on a unified concept summed up in the occupation of all Palestinian lands and non-recognition of the existence of any Arab people there," commented the pro-PLO daily AL- QUDS.

"Here we see the government of Yitzhaq Rabin considered by the West as moderate practising the same policies of attracting settlers and confiscation of Arab lands to settle them and implore Washington to cover the expenses," it added.

Foreign Ministry Official's Remarks on Arms Praised

NC1405134593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Middle East, Free From A.B.C. Weapons!"]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with TEHRAN TIMES, Hamid Reza 'Asefi, Director of the West European Department at the Foreign Ministry, declared that Iran wants the entire Middle East to be free from all A.B.C. (atomic, biological, chemical) weapons. He added that the Iranian delegation visiting Germany had announced, in their meetings with the German authorities, Iran's readiness to avail of Western technical cooperation in turning some of the arms factories which had been established in Iran during the past regime with the assistance of Western countries, into other types of productive units.

The words of the director of the West European department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry reveals Iran's goodwill in connection with the arms issues.

As the greatest war victim since World War II, Iran has suffered greatly during the 8-year Iraqi aggression. The Iranian nation has been the target of the most vicious attacks and has had the [as published], and has had the greatest number of casualties from the enemy's deployment of chemical weapons. As a result of such bitter experiences, Iran has always advocated the removal of all weapons of mass destruction from the entire Middle Eastern region.

Thus Iran's suggestion must be considered as a very serious proposal. However, political observers are of the opinion that powerful Western countries will not concern themselves seriously with the issue raised by Iran, and it is doubtful the mass media in those countries will take up a serious discussion of Iran's proposal.

The propaganda campaign of the preceding year has done a great deal to boost Western countries' sale of war equipments in the region at a time when Western economy faced serious problems.

On the other hand, the West is trying to expand its domination in the region by arming Israel with nuclear weapons.

In spite of that, and even if it is not going to have any result other than being recorded in history, the Iranian authorities have to put forward their proposal at international circles. The world public opinion has to be given a chance to discover the identities of the people who trade on war, and realize what countries really desire peace and brotherhood among nations.

Further on 'Asefi Remarks

NC1405140593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 6 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] Tehran—Following the publication of an interview with Director General in Charge of Western Europe Hamid Reza 'Asefi on Iran's proposal for the elimination of the so-called ABC or atomic, biological and chemical weapons an informed source explained more in a statement given by the Foreign Ministry official.

He said, "We have two separate proposals which are quite different from each other. One, the entire region of the Middle East should be free of ABC weapons. Iran has not and will never try to achieve superiority in ABC weapons. We ourselves were the victims of toxic bombs during eight years of the Iraqi imposed war on Iran and sacrificed a large number of our people."

He said, "Because of this reason we declare this to be a danger for the region and so through collective efforts and for the safety of human beings should eliminate all deadly weapons, or research institutes relating to them from this region."

A second proposal is quite different from the first one, the source said. He said that this proposal was given to some of the Western countries. That proposal is that with the assistance of these countries some of the weapons factories should be transformed to civilian needs.

It should be noted that 'most of these weapons factories were built by some of the Western countries during the Shah's regime.'

Committee To Investigate State of Human Rights

NC1705170993 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17 (AFP)—The Iranian parliament on Monday formed a "non-governmental" committee to investigate the state of human rights in Iran and abroad, officials here said.

Seventeen MPs [members of Parliament] and lawyers have voluntarily joined the committee which seeks to "investigate the human rights situation in Iran and abroad and offer suggestions," said Tehran MP Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani who was his country's envoy to the United Nations.

Raja'i-Khorasani said the committee would defend "legitimate" individual and social rights worldwide with "total independence and neutrality."

But he did not say whether the committee would be empowered to act against reported violations in Iran.

Several human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and the United Nations Human Rights

Commission, have repeatedly accused Iran of human rights violations since the Islamic revolution of 1979 which toppled the shah.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Discusses Election, Terrorism

BK1805041193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has reiterated that his government is steadfast in its pledge to hold the elections as scheduled and has apprised the Supreme Court and the election commission of its pledge. He told foreign correspondents in Islamabad on 17 May that the election commission has been formed and that other necessary arrangements are being made to ensure free, fair, and impartial elections. The prime minister said the Army's help has been sought to supervise the elections. [passage omitted]

Balkh Sher Mazari said Pakistan wants to resolve all outstanding issues with India, including Kashmir. He said this is essential to establish regional peace and to divert resources for the people's welfare. He said we are steadfast in our commitment to global peace and view with contempt all sorts of terrorism. We are determined not to allow anyone to use our territory to commit terrorism in other countries. He said all foreigners who cannot provide proper justification for their stay should leave Pakistan by 31 May.

On the nuclear issue, the prime minister said Pakistan's program is peaceful and the country is ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, provided India follows suit. Pakistan will not accept any discriminatory regulations in this regard. [passage omitted]

President Says Privatization Policy To Continue

BK1605114093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the caretaker government requires the support of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to overcome the difficulties inherited by it from the previous government. Talking to the country director of the World Bank in Islamabad today, he said the government was facing a difficult task of correcting the country's financial situation. He emphasized the need for better management of the economy to ensure resource mobilization. He informed the World Bank director that the privatization policy would be continued with a great degree of transparency and due care. This was necessary to satisfy public opinion and to establish credibility of the process.

Two Generals Join Intelligence Agency

BK1505111793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 May 93 p 1

[Text] To reorientate the country's elite intelligence agency—Inter Services Intellegence (ISI)—on special lines and revamping its role of national security, two more senior military officers have reportedly been transferred to it.

They are Maj Gen Nasim Rana and Maj Gen Hamid Hassan Butt.

Maj Gen Rana was serving as commander of 10 Division, while Mr. Butt was signal-in-chief in Pakistan Army.

Apart from them, the ISI has services of two other major generals heading important desks to look after national security.

Sources say that now the ISI having services of four major generals is being reoriented on special lines, particularly its role relating to national security. Recently, a former Director General Military Intelligence, [words indistinct] Gen Javed Nasir, who was first appointed as Chairman Logistic Reforms committee, but was relieved after a few days.

In a related move, Major General Ghazuddin Rana, GOC [General Officer Commanding] 23 Division, has been posted as Commander 10 Division in place of Maj Gen Nasim Rana.

Meanwhile, recently promoted Lieutenant General Iftikhar Ali Khan has been sent to head National Defence College [NDC], in place of Lt Gen Asad Durrani. Durrani is already on SOD [expansion unknown] from 15th of the current month. The new head of the NDC was serving as chief instructor (War Wing) in the NDC in his capacity as major general.

Contrary to speculations that he is being made Corps Commander Karachi, the recently-promoted Lieutenant General Sarajam Khan has been retained as military secretary.

Meanwhile, Major General Mohsin Ali Wahdi is appointed to officiate as MGO [expansion unknown] in his capacity as DMGO [expansion unknown]. The position is lying vacant since Lt Gen Javed Ashraf has been posted as Director-General ISI.

Sources say that the whole organisaition under able leadership of Gen Javed Ashraf is being revamped to pursue specific aims.

[words indistinct] chief is holding weekly consultative meetings with some high-ups of the Foreign Office so that he may become well-versed with the new developments as early as possible. He is being regularly briefed on foreign policy matters, specially in the context of Pak-U.S. Indo-Pak, Afghanistan and other areas.

President Meets UN Envoy on Afghanistan

BK1605145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has assured the United Nations of its full cooperation in all constructive endeavors to bring peace to Afghanistan. The assurance was given by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while talking to Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, assistant secretary general and personal representative of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan and Pakistan, who called on him at the Aiwan- i-Sadr [President's House] today. The president appreciated the United Nations' role and hoped it will mobilize international help and assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Mr. Mousouris briefed the president about the latest situation in Afghanistan.

Indian 'Twisting Facts' Over Bombings Decried

BK1705134993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 May 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has accused India of twisting facts to implicate it in the Bombay blast and a government spokeman urged New Delhi Sunday to stop its propaganda against Islamabad.

It is very unfortunate the Indian high commissioner should not have done this said a spokeman of the Pakistan Foreign office while commenting on New Delhi's claim that Pakistan had admitted the fugitives of the Bombay blasts were hiding here.

The Indian foreign office issued a statement in New Delhi Sunday saying Pakistan's foreign secretary Shaharyar Khan told the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, B.K. Lamba, that the fugitives had arrived in Karachi. They were now untracable.

The Pakistan foreign office spokesman said Indian authorities gave Islamabad a copy of Pakistan airline passengers list on March 23, seven days after the Bombay blasts.

The list only has the first names of the six suspects, four men and two women, who boarded a Pakistan airlines flight from Dubayy March 17 as transit passengers for Bombay.

The spokesman said it was not clear whether it were the same people who India said were responsible for the Bombay blast or some other group.

It was also not clear whether the criminals had boarded the flight in Dubayy or arranged for another group to travel under their names to avoid arrest, he said.

The spokesman said although people with those six first names that the Indian authorities have given to Pakistan came up to to Karachi but did not fly to Bombay which, according to the booking was their destination.

They also never came out of the airport. According to our immigration records nobody with those six first names entered Pakistan between March 17 and 23, said the spokesman.

He said Islambad also checked with its missions in Dubayy and other places and no Pakistani mission issued them a visa for Pakistan.

He said one possibility was that they came up to Karachi and then boarded a connecting flight to an unknown destination, using another set of travel documents and airlines tickets.

The spokesman said soon after receiving India's request, Pakistan had ordered a thorough inquiry and alerted its security staff.

But the main problem we are facing is that of the gap of seven days between the flight and the passing of information to us by the Indian authorities. It is being difficult to account for those seven days.

He said Pakistan had passed on the findings of its investigation to the Indian high commissioner in good faith and to promote good neighbourly relations with India.

But we are shocked to see that somebody at India's Ministry for Foreign Affairs had twisted the facts and was using them for propaganda against Pakistan, we did not expected this from the Indian high commander, said the spokesman [sentence as published].

Editorials Views U.S. Policy, Malott Visit

Test of U.S. 'Evenhandedness'

BK1405104393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Test Clinton's even-handedness"]

[Text] The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Malott arrives in Islamabad today for two days of talks. The visit comes against a background of apparent relative calm in bilateral relations since Mr. Malott outlined two weeks ago President Clinton's "even-handed" approach in dealing with India and Pakistan, which was formally appreciated by Pakistan's Foreign Office on Wednesday. The visit also takes place while the US threat of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state seems to have abated somewhat (for the time being) with the publication of the State Department's annual report on terrorism in early May which excluded Pakistan from its list of countries supporting international terrorism. Mr. Malott's visit thus provides Islamabad the opportunity to test Mr. Clinton's avowed "even-handed" approach to regional security and see whether it is willing to beef up its pre-Malott visit overtures with concrete measures. Washington's singling out of Pakistan's nuclear programme and application of the Pressler Amendment only to Pakistan certainly do not constitute an even-handed aproach. Islamabad should not allow Mr. Malott

to get away on this issue with words to the effect that American laws can affect each country differently. On Pakistan's purported "terrorist" connection in held Kashmir, Islamabad should take Mr. Clinton on his words. It is only fair to expect US not to be impervious to Pakistan's domestic considerations in dealing with this country. Washington should be made to understand Pakistan's domestic political and moral compulsions on the Kashmir issue. At the same time, Islamabad should press Washington to take up more conscientiously its pet subject, the issue of violation of human rights—by Indian forces in held Kashmir—particularly in the context of the recent American proposal to set up a United Nations High Commission for Human Rights to take to task countries violating human rights.

On the economic front, Mr. Malott can be expected to be aggressive in wresting economic benefits from Pakistan. The Clinton administration has already been adopting a tough "results-oriented" trade policy with its allies Japan and the European Community, and with China, it has threatened not to renew the most-favoured-nation trading status (from which China earns US $ 18,000 million from the US annually) if China does not make progress on human rights, missile sales and trading practices. Similarly, the US can be expected to use the leverage offered by whatever exports that Pakistan makes to America.

Cordial and friendly bilateral relations between countries should be established per se based on mutual benefit. No one country, even if it is the only superpower, ought to impose conditions for political and economic relations. Using leverages only for its own advantage.

'Evenhanded' U.S. Approach Urged

BK1705132193 Karachi DAWN in English 17 May 93 p 13

[Editorial: "U.S. Policy and South Asia"]

[Text] It is not reeally strange that South Asia should figure so prominently in America's new scheme for the post-cold war global order. Given the pivotal position Islamabad enjoyed in Washington's geostrategic perceptions of the USSR's underbelly, it was but natural that an East-West detente should have prompted the US to reassess its policy vis-a-vis India and Pakistan. This process of reappraisal has been on for quite some time now and it is in this context that Mr. John Malott, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, is on a visit to the subcontinent. Although there has been no comprehensive policy statement to this effect, the outlines of the new American approach to South Asia are emerging.

From what Mr. Malott has had to say on this occasion and from what has been said earlier by others (such as the Carnegie Study Group), it is plain that the US now wants to correct what it terms the pro- Pakistan tilt in its South Asian policy and adopt a more detached stance. Theoretically, this would enable America to work for non- proliferation and peace in the region by putting pressure on both countries to freeze their nuclear programmes and resolve the Kashmir dispute which continues to be a potential flashpoint between them. In actual fact this would work out in such a way that the US would be able to derive greater advantage from its relationship with the bigger of the two South Asian nations.

This explains why the issues of nuclear non-prominence in Mr. Malott's discussions in Islamabad, The US is now determined to devise some non-proliferation regime in the region and also promote security and peace in South Asia by getting India and Pakistan to work for a settlement of the Kashmir dispute. Since the Pakistan government has offered to cooperate with the US on those matters, one can hope for a reciprocal response from New delhi which should facilitate an improvement in the political climate in the region.

Some scepticism might, however, be expressed about the US initiative in one respect. Mr. Malott's views, as reported in the Press, are not very reassuring. For instance he has emphasised that Pakistan must roll-back its nuclear programme to the 1990 level, which he holds as sacrosanct. This is the period when Pakistan was said to have produced the uranium cores for an atom bomb. Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan admitted as much in February 1992 when he said that Pakistan had acquired a nuclear capability but would not use it for military purposes. He had then also spoken of a freeze having been imposed on the country's nuclear programme. Subsequent statements from Pakistan government spokesmen have made it clear that no roll-back has been effected. That would explain Mr. Malott's insistence on a roll-back. But what is disconcerting is that the US has insisted on only a freeze on India's nuclear plans even though it enjoys considerable nuclear superiority over Pakistan. American policy will thus only perpetuate the nuclear disequilibrium between the two countries. This discriminatory approach will ensure the premature demise of whatever initiatives are taken for non-proliferation. US policy makers would do well to obse ve a measure of evenhandedness in their dealings with Pakistan and India, especially on nuclear matters, if they want their diplomacy to succeed.

On Kashmir, too, Mr. Malott could have opted for a more fair- minded approach. He speaks of Pakistan helping the 'terrorists' in the troubled territory whom he accuses of killing civilians. By failing to take note of India's massive and ruthless repression in the valley, Mr. Malott has betrayed a lack of understanding of the basic nature of the dispute. While one would agree that rigidity in approach must be discarded and serious negotiations on Kashmir must be undertaken within a flexible fromework, it is unrealistic to hope for a genuine solution unless India recognises that the issue at stake is the Kashmiris' right of self-determination.

Hence any American initiative in South Asia must primarily seek to adopt an evenhanded approach. Ths US can decide independently the perimeters of its bilateral relations with India as well as Pakistan. But where a [word indistinct] relationshp is concerned, the US as the outside power must be careful not to lean towards one or the other. This Mr. Malott would do well to bear in mind when he goes to New Delhi.

Stand on Army Role in Politics Lauded

BK1705131993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Electoral Process To Replace Military Involvement"]

[Text] One doesn't have to be a confirmed pessimist to say that of late things have not been going very charmingly for Pakistan. We have to be sincerely grateful to the visiting State Department official John Malott for going categorically on record to say that his government would not like to see any invovement of the military in the country. That has made the day for millions of Pakistanis who have been wallowing in a sea of doubt and unease for weeks. Mr. Malott's assurance actually means that one phase of our history has turned full circle. The fact is that the fashion of military rule in Pakistan was introduced by the United States, to suit none but its very own purposes of the Cold War. Pakistan has not been the only country to be singled out for this dispensation. When the United States set about encircling the Soviet Union with client states, all to be turned into US military outposts, scores of Third World countries were lured into the trap of military rule, that is dictatorships headed by military brass. From the Atlantic to the Pacific a chain of khaki dictatorships was forged. Countries bordering on the Soviet Union were manoeuvered into iron hands of particularly virulent dictators, showered upon with dollars and weapons. Pakistan cannot forget the Badaber base, the springboard for US U-2 spy flights. These bases were little Americas to which local nationals had no access. Invevitably, these military dictatorships had to be linked into pacts and alliances. Pakistan was netted into two: Baghdad Pact, later (after revolution in Iraq) Cento, and SEATO. The former was to form an arc from Turkey to Iran to Pakistan, bordering on the Soviet Union. SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation) was to take care of the area extending from the Arabian Sea, to the Indian Sea on to the Pacific Ocean.

In the case of Pakistan, proximity to Soviet Union became an abiding bane. Our last and the longest ruling military dictator, Gen Zia, was on the verge of a crisis which could have brought about his downfall when in 1979 the Soviets blundered into Afghanistan. Once again, the United States needed a military regime in this country to turn it into a military base for US operations against the Soviets inside Afghanistan. Gen Zia got a new lease of life. He became the mainstay of the United States strategy. Zia and his close accomplices served the interests and purposes of the United States to the total exclusion of any consideration of Pakistan's interests. For nearly 12 years the US-backed military regime in Pakistan ran roughshod over everything of value to this country and people. We have the results of the Zia regime's misdeeds in front of us. Kalashnikov culture encompasses harrowing crimes, including the virtual demise of rule of law. This nation has all but lost touch with political decencies. For so long have we been subjected to cynical, foreign-sponsored and alien-dominated authoritarian abuse that when we venture into the field of democratic politics, we are completely unsure of ourselves. For all this we have our good friend the United States to thank.

And now, we must hasten to express our gratitude to the United States for having stated in absolutely unmistakable terms that it has changed its taste of government in Pakistan. It would not like military involvement in the governance of this country. One can only heave a deep sigh of relief but not without the profound regret over the deep gashes we have had to suffer over long years of US- backed military dictatorships. The wounds are deep, still bleeding and festering. It will take superhuman will and vision to heal them and restore the psyche of the Pakistani nation warped over years of distortions and perversions of political and moral values. Mr. Malott's assurance on bebalf of the Clinton administration that military involvement would be looked upon with unqualified distaste would be welcome at any time. It is doubly so at this stage in the country's agonised and halting recovery of its all but lost soul. We are on the verge of what may be the most crucial general election in our history. It is honey to the ears of all sensitive Pakistanis to hear Mr. Malott say that "Integrity of the electoral process must be ensured..." We do hope President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is listening to what the distinguished visitor from Washington has to say on a subject which must be weighing heavily upon his conscience. The President is not entirely unjustified in reminding the nation that he has been around for fifty years. But how many of his fifty years were given to acceptance of military involvement in government as against the years which saw the "integrity of the electoral process?" Length of service does count, but quality of service ought to count for more. On the latter count, the judgement must be left to the people of Pakistan who are once again dangling in a political limbo. The number of years President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has been in business reminds one of a Ghalib verse. Since the President is a gentleman with a highly developed literary taste, quoting Ghalib may not be out of order: Life goes waste, anyway, even if you live as long as Hazrat Khizr.

'Warrior Mindset' out of Date

BK1705132393 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 May 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Getting Rid of a Dangerous Mindset"]

[Text] Mr. John Malott, director South Asian Bureau, US State Department, has somehow allayed our fears by saying that Pakistan is not on any formal watch-list of terrorist states. Though the US Administration seems more relaxed after receiving certain "assurances" from the caretaker government, it would like the promised measurs implemented. Already, the first phase of removing the alleged Arab terrorists from the Pakistani soil is about to be completed. The NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Government has issued another warning to all foreigners evading scrutiny to leave Pakistan by May 31. Some important changes have been brought into the command structure of the security agencies, and other important measures are

being taken to bring security agencies in conformity with lawful conduct, and with the official line. It is being hoped that the confusion created by the overlappings and trespasses of some of the self-styled "missionaries" all around will be rectified. However, it will depend upon how the democratic transition in Pakistan takes place. The cold war hangover is much greater among the remnants of General Zia's legacy, and it will take some considerable time before the establishment gets rid of it. The "warrior" state built at the peak of the cold war, and a "warrior mindset" recreated during a "privileged" status of a front-line state, granted by the free world, will not easily give way to a democratic state and a moderate mind.

On his visit to Pakistan during a period of crucial transition, Mr. Malott has also reiterated the Clinton administration's goals of "stability of democracy, promotion of human rights, and countering of terrorism." The objectives are noble, and are equally dear to every democrat in Pakistan. But an isolated fundamentalist lobby within and without the establishment will make their last-ditch effort to turn Pakistan into a cockpit of Muslim fundamentalism. And there is no dearth of political opportunism in Pakistan which allows many of our politicians to indulge in extremist slogan-mongering. Already some of the isolated fundamentalist outfits have raised the bogey of "compromising national sovereignty" against the policy of expelling alleged Arab terrorists. Ironically, this is a position which undermines the sovereignty of many Muslim states, and it does not subscribe to the universal values of human rights and freedoms while using them to attain its fascist objectives. Pakistan is standing at a crossroads. There is a strong popular urge for democracy and progress which hopes to make Pakistan a model of democracy and progress for the Muslim world, of course, with the help of the West. And there is an irredentist and obscurantist streak bent upon creating unrest within the country, in the region and the whole Muslim world. The nation cannot afford a delay in deciding a course towards democracy, peace, and progress while rejecting an isolationist and irrational path to its self- destruction being proposed by a variety of pseudo "anti- imperialists."

Bright Prospects in Visit

BK1805044593 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 16 May 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The visit of the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state"]

[Text] John R. Malott, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, began talks with Pakistani authorities on issues of bilateral interest on 15 May. He already held talks with Indian External Affairs Ministry authorities in New Delhi before his arrival in Pakistan and it is expected that he will once again visit India after having talks with the Pakistani authorities. Although consultations between Pakistan and the United States and exchanges of visits by important figures is a continuing process between the two countries, the current visit of the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state is of special significance because it is felt that very important and crucial bilateral issues will be discussed during this visit. The issue of the United States declaring Pakistan a terrorist state has not yet been resolved. A number of important steps taken by the Government of Pakistan and the visit to the United States by Ms. Benazir Bhutto have helped create an impression that the danger of Pakistan being declared a terrorist state by the United States has been averted for the time being. Pakistan will once again categorically explain its viewpoint on the issue during the talks with Malott. The removal of the chief of Pakistan's important intelligence agency, Inter Service Intelligence—ISI—and the expulsion of nearly 1,600 Arab volunteers from Peshawar are two factors that have contributed to making the U.S. attitude toward Pakistan somewhat soft and flexible. It is not inappropriate to expect that the sword of the U.S. declaration of a terrorist state hanging over Pakistan's head will be further blunted as a result of ongoing Pakistan-U.S. negotiations, thereby considerably reducing Pakistan's concern in this regard.

According to press reports, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state will also hold detailed discussions on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. Up to now the United States has wanted Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] unilaterally. In response, Pakistan has been saying that it was a regional issue and it could not be resolved without India signing the NPT as well. Although the United States understands the logic in this argument, it was nevertheless in a position to exert pressure on Pakistan and therefore kept insisting that Pakistan sign the NPT, regardless of whether India does. The latest U.S. position, it is felt, is that as both Pakistan and India have acquired nuclear capability, therefore they can be persuaded to check nuclear proliferation only through a regional solution. This is a healthy and positive change in the U.S. posture and if the United States tries to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone on this basis, it will have more chances of success. Pakistan's stand on nuclear weapons is so rational and fair that it was impossible for the United States to deny its credibility any longer. It will not be incongruous now, when according to newspaper reports the United States has decided to treat Pakistan and India equally, to look forward to a solution of the issue.

The proposals brought by John R. Malott also include some proposals on bilateral disputes between Pakistan and India. Obviously, the dominant dispute is over Kashmir and the United States appears to have come to realize that without resolving this dispute justly it will be impossible to solve other problems that are causing tension between Pakistan and India. In fact, resolving this core issue will brighten the prospects of reaching understanding on other issues such as the reduction of conventional weapons and force, the promotion of trade links, nuclear nonproliferation, and other issues. Lately, there have been indications that the United States is ready to assist in the resolution of the Kashmir issue. And Malott in his current visit will particularly assess how to remove the differences between the two countries on the Kashmir issue. The United States assumes tremendous importance in world politics and if it puts all its weight on the side of righteousness and justice and makes it clear to India that it wants to see a just solution of the Kashmir issue, then it should not be impossible for the United States

to make the two neighboring countries sit together at the same table and help them find a solution to the dispute which is acceptable to both sides. It is true that the Kashmir dispute has become a very complicated matter due to a number of historical, psychological, and ideological factors and it is not easy to find a solution to the issue which is acceptable to both the countries and the Kashmiris themselves. But, there are a number of examples of resolving complicated and serious issues in the contemporary world. Therefore, it would be improper to assume that finding a solution to the Kashmir issue is one of the impossibilities. The U.S. President is now paying more attention to South Asia. John R. Malott's visit, especially the nature of the proposals that he is believed to be carrying with him, indicates that the United States is now taking interest in South Asian affairs on correct lines. It may be hoped that the current visit of the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state will not only help in improving Pakistan-U.S. relations, but will also turn out to be a vehicle for initiating the process of remedying Pakistan-India relations provided India refrains from acting in its traditional insolent manner and adopts a posture of rationality and prudence in the greater interest of the subcontinent.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Provincial Council Elections

Peaceful Elections Sought

BK1605114693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Everything is now set for the provincial council elections to be held tomorrow. Election officials are now on their way to the respective locations. Returning officers told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the personnel deployed on election duty left for various centers this morning. Special transport arrangements with police protection was provided to them. One hundred thousand officials will be on duty at 8,198 polling stations. Over 9.3 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots in the provincial council elections to elect 366 members. Two thousand three hundred candidates are seeking election to seven provincial councils.

The sources at the police headquarters said that more than 50,000 police officers have been deployed to ensure a peaceful election. Police have warned that stern action will be taken against anyone violating election laws. The polling booths will open at 7.00 a.m. and close at 4.00 p.m..

Elections Begin 17 May

BK1705113893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Voting in the provincial council elections began at 7 o'clock this morning. Polling stations will close at 4.00 p.m.. There are 2,300 candidates (?vying) for 366 seats in the Western, Southern, Uva, Sabaragamuwa, Central, North-Western, and North- Central Provincial Councils. Nine point three million persons are eligible to vote. All registered voters have been issued polling cards. The counting of the votes will begin tonight at 1,056 centers in the 17 districts. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation will broadcast the results on a special election transmission tonight. The international observers have already begun their monitoring activities. The police have already taken special measures to ensure a free and peaceful election.

Allegations of Vote Rigging

BK1705115093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 17 May 93

[by Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, May 17 (AFP)—Torrential rains and allegations of voting irregularities Monday marred Sri Lanka's crucial local government elections, seen as an acid test for new President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga.

Opposition parties charged that many of Wijetunga's ruling United National Party (UNP) supporters were impersonating others to vote illegally in Colombo, and accused police of harassing anti- government activists elsewhere.

"We have already complained about harassment and these impersonations," opposition spokesman Wickrema Weerasooriya said, adding that the UNP was buying votes from people in the capital's central constituency.

Some 9.3 million people are eligible to elect 366 members to seven provincial councils in the balloting, which is considered a litmus test for the UNP, which has been in power since 1977.

Many think the three-cornered race could leave Sri Lanka politically unstable, and analysts see it as a referendum on Wijetunga, who succeeded Ranasinghe Premadasa after his May 1 assassination.

Premadasa had made his personal appeal an essential ingredient in the UNP image, leading observers to suggest the party may have difficulty keeping a strong identity without him.

The UNP has won every national and local election since a landslide victory in July 1977 but entered Monday's polls as the underdog following an informal electoral pact between the two main opposition contenders.

Going into the elections the right-wing UNP controlled all seven provincial councils. They have limited powers to raise taxes and enact laws, but their control is seen as essential for the smooth functioning of the central government.

Young supporters sporting green and yellow caps of the Democratic United National Party, a breakaway faction of the UNP, were seen outside most polling booths here. The UNP's green caps were few and far between.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party also appeared to have enthusiastic support.

The new president has tried to take the wind out of opposition sails by presenting a reformist image, dismantling extra judicial "flying-squads" which harassed government opponents and ordering a general clean-up of the government.

As polling closed, election officials estimated the turnout to be more than 70 percent after the weather in most areas improved by early afternoon. Traditionally, Sri Lankan voter turnout exceeds 85 percent.

More than 70 millimeters (Almost three inches) of rain fell in the western and southern parts of the country, causing at least two voting booths to collapse.

"Apart from that, we have had no major complaints. There are no reports of serious violence anywhere so far," a police spokesman said.

Sunny weather enabled voters to go to the polls early in the densely populated central and northcentral regions, officials said.

The run-up to Monday's poll was marred by sporadic violence and the assassinations of Democratic United National Party leader Lalith Athulathmudali and Premadasa within eight days of each other.

Athulathmudali was addressing an election meeting when a lone gunman killed him April 23.

The entire police force of 50,000 men has been deployed to guard 8,198 polling booths and more than 1,000 tabulation centres while security forces have also been placed on maximum alert, officials said.

The provincial councils were set up in line with a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end Tamil separatistism. But there was no polling in the Tamil-majority northeast.

Colombo dismissed an eighth council in the northeastern province in 1990 after its Tamil leaders threatened to declare independence. Since then, fighting in the region has prevented balloting there.

Emergency Laws Introduced

BK1805035293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0331 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 18 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Tuesday re-imposed emergency laws giving sweeping powers to security forces as results of crucial regional polls were being announced, officials said.

The government reintroduced six tough emergency laws and clamped a week-long ban on rallies and processions to deter post-election violence in the seven provinces which went to the polls Monday.

Under the emergency laws, security forces and police would be empowered to arrest and detain suspects without a warrant but so far no violence has been reported from the regions, officials said.

"The election on the whole was incident-free and comparatively peaceful," Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva said just after vote-counting began late Monday.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has ordered security forces and police to maintain order even after the counting ended Tuesday. Victory celebrations have been banned, officials said.

The emergency measures, which were progressively relaxed from April to enable the parties carry out their election campaigning, also ban the display of slogans and spreading rumours aimed at toppling the government.

Official: Foreign Investment Policies Unchanged

BK1405120893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, the BOI, has launched a campaign abroad to convince diplomatic missions, potential investors, and leading companies overseas that President Ranasinghe Premadasa's assassination has not changed the country's foreign investment policies.

Mr. Lakshman R. Wattawela, director general of the BOI, said that apart from expanding the package of incentives and simplifying investment procedures, more avenues will be opened for investment for both foreign and local investors. Mr. Wattawela has said that the BOI's one-stop shop which provides facilitation and approval for foreign investment stands firmly committed to serving investors.

The BOI has approved a record 182 projects which will incorporate an investment of over 16 billion rupees. When functioning, these projects are expected to create 13,608 new employment opportunities for Lankans. As of April this year, 60 of the approved projects had signed agreements with the BOI. Investments for these projects are from Korea, China, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Russia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.

Japanese Aid To Help Increase Food Production

BK1505125693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] An exchange of notes between the governments of Japan and Sri Lanka, providing 1,600 million yen to help Sri Lanka increase its food production, was signed on Thursday by Mr. Masaaki Kuniyasu, ambassador of Japan, and Mr. R. Paskaralingam, secretary in the Ministry of Finance. In the 16 years since 1977, the Government of Japan has provided a series of 17 food production grants to the Sri Lankan Government totalling 36,131 million yen to help the country in its drive toward agricultural self-sufficiency. As fertilizer is an essential component in the cultivation of various crops, a large portion of this grant is to be allocated toward the purchase of fertilizer while the remaining amount will be used for buying agricultural equipment and machinery. Sri Lanka will thus save a tremendous amount of foreign exchange. Grants such as the one just pledged have helped increase food production in Sri Lanka and assisted in raising the income of the average farmer.